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CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
AND ITS DEPENDENCIES.

AN ACCURATE AND TRULY INTERESTING

DESCRIPTION

OF THOSE

DELIGHTFUL REGIONS,

SITUATED

FIVE HUNDRED MILES NORTH OF THE CAPE,

Formerly in Possession of the Dutch, but lately ceded to the Crown of England; and which are to be colonized, with every possible Despatch, under the Authority of the British Government, by AGRICULTURISTS and ARTIFICERS of every Denomination from the United Kingdom of GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND.

BY CAPTAIN BENJAMIN STOUT,

LATE COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN EAST-INDIAMAN NAMED THE HERCULES, LOST ON THE COAST OF CAFFRARIA, WITHIN A FEW MILES OF THE RIVER INFANTA, WHERE THE GROSVENOR PERISHED IN 1782.

LIKEWISE

A LUMINOUS AND AFFECTING DETAIL

OF

CAPTAIN STOUT'S TRAVELS THROUGH THE DESERTS OF CAFFRARIA AND THE CHRISTIAN SETTLEMENTS, TO THE CAPE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

To all classes and denominations of His Majesty's subjects, throughout the united kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland.

The measure now so actively and wisely undertaken by our government, that of colonising those delightful regions, 500 miles northward of the Cape of Good Hope, generally denominated the Christian settlements, has lately engaged much of the public attention; and as it is highly approved by all those who are ac-

quainted with this important subject, we feel a very earnest desire to accelerate so glorious an undertaking by every means in our power. The immediate consequence to be expected from the adoption of this measure is of no less importance than happily providing for a numerous and distressed population, and at the same time laying the foundation of a commerce with the parent state, which cannot, perhaps, be appreciated too highly.

The countries northward of the Cape, now proposed to be settled by emigrants from the united kingdom of Great-Britain and Ireland, have never been sufficiently explored, owing, in a great measure, to the jealousy of the Batavian government. The Dutch, who were lords of the soil

since the year 1652, and until lately ceded to the crown of England, were sedulous in their endeavours to conceal the fertility of the country, and, if possible, to cast the mantle of oblivion over those scenes of enormities which were so long practised by their countrymen on the unoffending natives; but notwithstanding they discouraged foreigners from visiting any of the colonial settlements belonging to the government of the Cape, still a few enterprising people found their way, in the course of the last century, several hundred miles northward of the Fish River, which is the boundary that divides the Christian settlements from Caffraria. Of these were Messrs. Vaillant, Sparman, Gordon, Patterson, and others; but we could not in any

of their publications find a satisfactory description of the countries which are now the objects of British colonisation; their excursions being mostly directed westward, after passing the colonial boundary: the beautiful and fertile country of Caffraria, which skirts the eastern coast nearly 800 miles, was but little attended to, and our expectations of being able to accurately describe the countries now to be settled by the crown of England for some time impeded. At length a fortunate circumstance occurred, which relieved us from this embarrassment; we were favoured with the perusal of a narrative addressed to the Hon. John Adams, who succeeded General Washington as president of the United States of America. This

narrative was written by a Captain Benjamin Stout, a relative of Mr. Adams, who commanded an American ship, named the Hercules, in 1795, which then lay in Sagar Roads, in the province of Bengal, and in the succeeding year was lost on the coast of Caffraria, a few miles distant from the mouth of the river Infanta, where the Grosvenor Indiaman perished in 1782. The captain and such of his people as survived the wreck were most hospitably received by the natives, and when recovered were conducted by guides through the deserts of Caffraria to the Christian settlements.

On a careful perusal of this narrative, we found it written in a style of uncommon perspicuity, conciseness, and elegance; but what rendered it

truly valuable to us was, that it contained a most faithful and minute description of the very country which our government are now determined to colonise, and which formed the route of the unhappy crew on their way to the Christian settlements and the Cape. Their commanding officer hath certainly shown himself a truly intelligent and faithful observer of what appeared deserving his notice in the course of his travels, and hath delivered his opinions with so much candour, fidelity, and ability, that we cannot too strongly recommend his narrative to public attention at this critical and important moment.

The advantages which must arise to the British settlers on their arrival in those fertile regions northward of

the Cape (and which they are to cultivate and inherit), by possessing a faithful delineation of their fertility and beauty, may be easily conceived. The reader will soon discover that Captain Stout was so enamoured of the countries through which he passed that he strongly recommended to his patron and relative, Mr. Adams, to form an American settlement on the eastern coast of Caffraria; but this measure was not approved by the president, and for the same reasons which were anticipated by Captain Stout in his introductory address. We shall, however, give this gentleman's reasonings in his own words, as they apply so directly and conclusively to the measures now proposed and adopted by the British

government. Captain Stout adds, and with a becoming confidence, that a certain portion of the southern continent of Africa, colonised from Europe and wisely governed, would ultimately prove of more value to the British empire than all their settlements in the East and West Indies put together.

Our author, who certainly feels a strong and honourable predilection in favour of his native country, addresses his principal and relative in the following elegant and impressive language.

THE EDITOR.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

To the Honourable John Adams, President of the Continental Congress of the United States of America.

" SIR,

" IF this Narrative be transmitted across the Atlantic, and should find its way to your hand, receive it as the voluntary homage of a native of America, who from his earliest life hath been taught to venerate and admire your virtues and your talents. A work like the present, which has for its object the diffusion of science, the promotion of civilization throughout the unexplored and vast regions of Africa, and the establishment of colonial settlements in that fertile but neglected quarter of the earth, cannot be addressed to any individual with more propriety than to you.

Succeeding our illustrious Washington in the chair of the people, your constitutional influence must be extensive, and there lives a powerful advocate in your bosom for the success of every measure that has a tendency to alleviate the sorrows of humanity. The untutored tribes of America have already experienced the beneficence of your nature, and I am now desirous to arrest your attention, and interest your feelings, in behalf of those wandering children of nature, who are scattered over the deserts of the African world; a race of unoffending mortals, long persecuted by those enlightened savages, who, under the appellations of Christians and Dutchmen, settled themselves by violence on the southern promontory.

"To me, sir, this is a subject that takes full possession of all my affections. Cast with sixty of my people on the shores of Caffraria, after combating the horrors of a tempest, which I believe has but few parallels in the history of naval misfortune (and which will be fully described in the succeeding Narrative), I found in the na-

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tives a hospitality, and received from them a protection, which on many of the shores that belong to the polished nations of Europe I might have sought for in vain. These unfortunate inhabitants of Caffraria, who have been so often and so wickedly denominated savages that delight and revel in human slaughter, I found possessed of all those compassionate feelings, that alone give a lustre to and adorn humanity; living in a state of perpetual alarm from the persecuting and avaricious disposition of the colonists, and instructed by their fathers to consider a white man as a being, who never hesitates to murder when plunder is in view, still a justifiable revenge yielded to the virtuous impulse of compassion, and our necessities were generously relieved, without even the prospect of recompense. When thrown by the raging of the elements on the sandy shores of their country, we were all unarmed, not having saved from the wreck a single article, either for our defence, clothing, or subsistence: in this situation we were completely at the mercy of the na-

tives; but instead of remembering and revenging the wrongs they and their predecessors had endured from the savage whites, they made a fire to dry and refresh us; they slaughtered a bullock, which they gave us for our subsistence; they conducted us to a spring of the most limpid and wholesome water, and when we were enabled to travel, furnished us with guides through the deserts of their country. Such was the conduct of a people who have been described as barbarians, possessing no other semblance of the human character than what they derive from their formation."

The Captain, after paying what he very properly considered a debt of gratitude to his sable benefactors on the continent of Africa, proceeds to draw the attention of the president to those commercial benefits, which may be obtained by establishing a colony from America, on that part of the coast where the ship he commanded was unfortunately wrecked, or on some other part of the southern continent, which may from its fertility invite a settlement. "I

shall give you (says the intelligent writer) my sentiments freely on this occasion, because I do not conceive that any of the European nations have a right to interpose: the Dutch, who formerly possessed the Cape of Good-Hope, but which, on my arrival there, I found in possession of the English, encouraged colonization to a certain degree, and their people have, within the last century, proceeded into the interior, cultivated lands and formed settlements 400 miles distant from the Cape. As these colonists advance they hunt the unfortunate natives as they do the lion and the panther, dispossess them of their lands by force, rob them of their cattle, and, by every possible means, endeavour to effect a total extirpation of the original and unoffending inhabitants. This inhuman conduct must surely meet the execration of every man not totally lost to the feelings of humanity; but still it may be alleged, that having got possession of those lands, no matter by what means, their right is established, and they cannot be dispossessed by a foreigner, as such a con-

duct is not warranted by the laws of nations. I shall admit (but for the purpose only of elucidating the matter in question) that successful violence gives a title to the possessor, and that the colonists, as far as they have penetrated, are lawfully entitled to those estates: still this argument does not apply so as to exclude an American, or any other foreigner, who settles at a distance (suppose 100 miles) from the most advanced colony belonging to the government of the Cape. It has never been understood, when the Dutch took possession of the Cape of Storms, as it was originally styled by the Portuguese, that they also claimed a title to the whole of the southern part of Africa; such an undefined and unlimited claim must at once appear not only presumptuous, but preposterous; and on this ground I argue, that the people of any nation have an unquestionable right (provided the natives give their assent) to settle on such parts of the southern continent of Africa, as do not interpose with the lands already in possession of the colonists."

We have omitted the author's historical account of the Carthaginian republic, as not exactly bearing on the present subject. It is not of any consequence to the people of the nineteenth century, what condition the southern parts of Africa were in two or three thousand years ago. Our object is to obtain the best possible information respecting the present state of Southern Africa; that our countrymen when landed at the Cape may not be at a loss how to conduct themselves, after occupying the lands assigned to them for cultivation. Our author observes that within the last century several intelligent and enterprising men have penetrated the interior, more than 400 miles from the most advanced colony belonging to the Cape, and their opinions are perfectly in unison with mine. Monsieur Vaillant, Colonel Gordon, Dr. Sparman, Major Patterson, and a few others, have visited the countries inhabited by the wandering Hottentots, the Auteniqua country from the mountains to the sea, the Gonoquais, the Namaquois, and several other parts inhabited by people generally

denominated Savages, and the opinions of these gentlemen respecting the natural productions of the earth, the climate, and the immense advantages that might be derived from colonizing these parts, merit, at this period, our most serious consideration. Monsieur Vaillant, whose enthusiasm for the improvement of natural history led him into Africa, speaking of the countries through which he travelled on his way into Caffraria, gives the following description of them, and accompanies it with observations both interesting and curious.

" As I got farther from the colonies," says this wandering naturalist, " the country was still more beautiful; the soil rich and fruitful—here nature appeared in all her majesty; the lofty mountains offering from every side the most delightful and romantic views I had ever seen. This prospect, contrasted with the idea of the parched and barren sands about the Cape, made me think myself at a thousand miles distant—

" What! exclaimed I, shall these charming fields, these hills and valleys, be for

ever uninhabited, except by the lion and the tiger? what a being is the sordid speculator, whose views, bounded by commerce, port-fees, and customs, can prefer the storms and dangers of Table Bay, to the safe-riding, or natural and charming ports, that are so common on the oriental coasts of Africa!"

Captain Stout, in his address to Mr. Adams, accounts in a manner perfectly satisfactory for the slender progress the Dutch made into the interior since their first settlement in 1652. He tells us that when the government at home founded a settlement on the southern promontory of Africa, they encouraged for some time all those of an adventuring disposition, who were desirous of settling in those parts, and likewise transported a great number of their criminals to the Cape, especially those who had some knowledge in the cultivation of land, or were bred to some mechanical employment. In a few years they advanced from 30 to 40 miles, formed settlements that amply repaid their labours, and opened a new source of com-

merce to the parent country. The grape flourished beyond their most sanguine expectations, and from which they produced the Constantia wine, so highly valued at this day throughout the nations of Europe. Oranges, citrons, figs, and corn, were soon found to yield the most abundant crops, nor were their cattle less fruitful in their propagation and quality.

The prosperous situation of the first adventurers tempted others to quit Europe, and settle in Africa. They proceeded farther into the interior, and found the lands, as they advanced from the Cape, increase in fertility. They reared cattle and corn in abundance; but were not so conveniently situated for trade as those who were settled nearer the Cape; it was, however, fruitless to complain, as they had no other market. Again, others came, and advanced still farther, until at length their numbers became formidable. The first settlers, as they increased in wealth, increased in haughtiness; they erected mansions, on an expensive scale, from the Cape to Table Bay, formed pleasure-grounds, and gave

entertainments in the Asiatic style of magnificence. These people, although frequently insolent to the governor, were, however, easily managed, as their properties were contiguous to the Cape, and of course within the grasp of authority. Those who were further advanced having smarted under restrictions and goaded by persecutions, were less tractable, and frequently made a common cause with those colonists, who being still farther advanced from the seat of government, paid but little attention to the mandates of authority. To such lengths did they proceed in their opposition to the orders of the governor, that on a certain occasion, when he threatened them with military execution as a punishment for their disobedience, they sent him word, that every soldier he despatched on such a business would be sent back to him in *pickling-tubs;* at the same time giving him to understand they could bring 10,000 men into the field.

The governor, perceiving their strength and disposition, proceeded no farther than menaces; but this transaction confirmed

the opinion which was long entertained by the Dutch government, that if colonization was not checked in Africa, their settlements in that quarter would be endangered. From the adoption of this policy, founded on the apprehensions of the government at home, we learn the true reason why a greater part of the southern continent has not been settled since the Dutch took possession of the Cape in 1652, and accounts for the heavy restrictions that have been laid upon the colonists in general.

Our author, who entirely disapproves of the restrictions and impediments thrown in the way of the colonists by the Dutch government, hath discovered a scene, which cannot fail at this very interesting crisis to be of the utmost importance to the British emigrants, who are to settle in the southern parts of the African continent.

"On my arrival (says the Captain) at what is called the first Christian settlement, I experienced a very cordial and hospitable reception. My people were supplied with whatever they could spare, and this relief was administered upon terms that mani-

fested a genuine disinterestedness. On my describing the beauties of the several countries through which we passed, and at the same time expressing an astonishment at their being unoccupied by Christian settlers, I was informed that so desirable an event could never take place, so long as the Dutch remained in possession of the Cape.—'We are,' said these people, 'although living on the confines of the deserts, so barbarously persecuted by our rulers, that we are unable to proceed. In our neighbourhood, and on our own farms, we have the richest lead ore, and so near the surface, that we can scrape it up with our hands; and yet were we to melt and use a single pound of it, the punishment would be transportation to Batavia. On our coast, particularly near the bay of Algoa, we have the finest timber in the world; and although it could be conveyed to the Cape by sea at the most trifling charge, yet our government supplies their settlements with that valuable commodity from Europe, and, as you may suppose, at an expense which must be enormous. We

live in hope, however,' continued these colonists, 'that some nation more liberal than ours will form a settlement on the eastern or western coast, that we may get supplied with such articles as are necessary to our situation, and will trade with us on principles of mutual advantage.'"

Throughout the whole of the colonies as he journeyed to the Cape, he found this sentiment universally prevailed; they were all desirous (says our author) of having some trading and liberal people settle either on the east or west coast, and this disposition was so prevailing in the colonists, that any opposition from the Cape to such a settlement must be nugatory, as it would be supported by the united strength of all the colonies.

The part of Africa (says our author) which in my opinion particularly invites a new settlement is CAFFRARIA. This country, which skirts the eastern coast for many hundred miles, and stretches into the interior to a considerable extent, abounds in timber of the best quality; possesses many excellent harbours; is blessed with the

richest pasturage, that feeds innumerable herds of the finest cattle; the lands during the season favourable to vegetation are carpeted with flowers that perfume the surrounding atmosphere, and their shores are frequented by fish of every quality and description.

Such natural blessings lead us to contemplate the happy consequences that must necessarily arise, not only from the cultivation of so fine a country, but the civilization of a race of mortals whose only crime is their colour, and whose misfortunes, since the first settlement of Christian Savages in their country, no feeling heart can contemplate for a moment without horror and compassion.

In Caffraria, and throughout the greater part of the southern continent, the climate and the soil seem to demand the cultivation of the grape. In no country (says our intelligent author) which has yet been discovered could a greater variety of excellent wines be produced. The vineyards of Constantia which are situated near the Cape, and flourish in a steril soil, when

compared to those of Caffraria, elucidate this fact, and the experiments which the farmers have been able to make in the more advanced stations of the colonies leave no room for controversy on this subject. Tobacco has likewise been raised in these colonies by such of the farmers as could procure a plant; and although few were acquainted with the necessary treatment, either in its growth or manufacture, the produce in some places has been such as to exceed their most sanguine expectations. Here the barbarous policy of the Dutch government interposed, and the poor colonists were discouraged from rearing this indispensable commodity; they were obliged either to send or travel to the Cape for their tobacco, as well as most other articles, which they obtained by barter, and at an expense which seemed to exceed all bounds of usurious dealing. The sugar-cane, although not native to these countries, it is supposed could not fail in the southern parts of Africa; the soil, the climate, every thing invite the experiment. On my consulting those people

in Africa (says our traveller), who were acquainted with the growth of the sugar-cane in the West Indies, and the nature of the lands on which it flourishes most, I found they were decidedly of opinion that in the southern parts of Africa this commodity might be reared, and brought to as high a degree of perfection as in any other part of the globe. They went still farther, and avowed it also as their opinion, that not a spice which grew in Ceylon, or the Dutch colonies in the East, but would flourish in the southern parts of Africa. Fruits of almost every denomination have been reared in these colonies; oranges, lemons, citrons, figs, apples, pears, apricots, peaches, &c., have been cultivated in certain districts, and most of them with every imaginable success. There could be no difficulty, therefore, in extending these productions to every part of the southern continent.

Such are the capabilities of this delightful country; and as I apprehend nothing is wanting to perfect the whole but the exertions of a wise and liberal government,

I have recommended the establishment of a colony from America in these parts to your consideration. I must, sir, at the same time acknowledge, that some very cogent reasons may be adduced to show the impolicy of such a measure. It may be fairly alleged, that America hath deserts of her own to clear away and cultivate; that she hath savages on her own borders to civilize and establish as useful members of a regular community; and as the countries under the dominion of the United States are of such prodigious extent, and but feebly populated, all plans for colonizing foreign parts must be relinquished, or at least suspended for a century to come. These reasons, I own, sir, have considerable weight; but still they are not, in my opinion, so entirely conclusive, as to preclude all further consideration of this important subject. A single settlement on the coast of Caffraria would amply repay the expense, and the number of people necessary to the completion of such an undertaking, including both sexes, might be limited to one thousand. Those surely

could be spared, and might be obtained without difficulty. The people of America must have several articles essential to their commerce, which they cannot find at home, but might be had in profusion from a settlement in Africa. The naturalist, whether his genius leads him to the study of ornithology or botany, would have a noble field in these regions for his researches, and the natives, rendered savage by long and reiterated persecutions, would, by kind and gentle treatment, soon embrace the advantages arising from a state of civilization.

Captain Stout, in the course of his address to the president, expresses a most laudable indignation at the cruelties and impolitic conduct, manifested so repeatedly by the Dutch government, in their treatment of the unhappy natives. These unoffending people, (says this gentleman) have been most grossly abused; they have been described as beings of the most savage disposition, delighting in blood, and of a nature as cruel and untractable as the fiercest animals of their deserts. But these, sir, are the calumnies of their christian persecutors,

and have been fabricated for the atrocious purposes of deception. Take the reverse of this picture, and you will perceive the genuine character of the native African; compassionate, generous, hospitable to those who do not come to injure or destroy him; truly grateful for benefits conferred, and not yielding in this cardinal virtue to the most benevolent pupil of the sciences. Without ever having entertained the most distant consideration of a Supreme Being, or the existence of a future state, his virtues are dictated by the genuine feelings of his nature; and expecting no reward, nor dreading any punishment in a future life, for his conduct in this, stands a pre-eminent character on the roll of virtue and philanthropy. I speak of these people as I found them; and from this knowledge I form an opinion that, so far from their interrupting any settlement of the nature I have before alluded to, they would hail the foreigner, when they were convinced of his justice, as their friend, their protector, and deliverer.

I have before observed (continues the

writer) that on my arrival at the Cape, I found that settlement in the hands of the English; and as it is not improbable but when the happy period arrives (*Captain Stout wrote when we were at war with the French republic*) when the European nations shall close the present scene of human butchery, this settlement may become a part of the British empire, I shall venture to describe the good consequences that in all probability will arise to England from the possession of this settlement and its dependencies.

The British at this time receive their tobacco from America; but they are so wealthy and enterprising a people, and so intent on making settlements abroad, especially such as have a tendency to improve their commerce, that it would be ridiculous to imagine so great a benefit as the cultivation of this article in the south of Africa could escape their notice. The inhabitants of the Cape, and the colonists in general, entertain a strong predilection in favour of the British; and the sagacity of the English government will soon point out the means of perpetuating their friend-

ship. I can foresee that on the eastern and western coasts settlers from England will be established, and the natives treated with more humanity and policy than what they have hitherto experienced. If by any chance the West-India islands should be lost to them, or any natural convulsion of the seasons render them for a certain time unproductive, the British settlements in Africa might amply supply the deficiency, and their markets of rum and sugar be universally supported. Corn, fruits of all kinds, skins of various denominations, ivory, tortoise-shell, ostrich feathers, and many other articles, that would give their trade a wonderful augmentation, might be all had from these parts.

The advantages arising from the possession of the Cape, and those which might be derived from colonizing the southern part of the African continent, are fully understood at this time by the English and French governments*. This was clearly

* Captain Stout's address to Mr. Adams was sent to the president, shortly after the negotiation for a peace, carrying on at Paris, by Lord Malmsbury and De la Croix, were terminated.

manifested in the course of the negotiation which took place at Paris early in the summer of the present year. When Lord Malmsbury, who was the plenipotentiary on the part of England, came to discuss that part of his mission which respected the Cape of Good Hope, he strenuously insisted on this settlement being ceded to the crown of England. De la Croix, who acted in a similar capacity on the part of the French republic, as strongly insisted on its being restored to the Dutch, and in giving his reasons for making this requisition a cardinal point in the negotiation, discovered a very competent knowledge of the subject. He very sagaciously observed, that the Cape, in the hands of the Dutch, could be of very little use, except furnishing a convenient place for shipping to touch at, on their voyage to the East-Indies; but in the hands of the English (said De la Croix) the southern territory of Africa would be colonized, and a new source of commerce in all probability arise, the advantages of which are incalculable. Here the French plenipotentiary

entered into an elaborate and perspicuous discussion of the subject; demonstrated what the active genius of the English, moving on so great a scale, would produce, and how the present trade of the European nations would be injured by opening to that nation such a new and fertile source for commercial adventure. From these discussions the people of both nations have acquired a more competent knowledge of the subject than formerly, and gave an obstinacy to both their demands, which defeated the desirable purpose of their meeting. In stating what occurred on this subject at Paris, I give (says our author) a certain weight to my own opinion, and which I have ventured to transmit for your consideration.

The people of England formerly considered the Cape as a half-way house to their settlements in the East-Indies, and appreciated its value in proportion to the accommodation which was given to their shipping; but at present they are better informed, and now understand, that although the possession of the Cape must be of con-

siderable benefit to their Asiatic commerce, as a place of refreshment and supply, still this advantage bears no proportion to those which may be derived from the cultivation of the interior. If on the map a direct line be drawn from Cape Agulhas, which is the southern extreme of Africa, about north north-east as far as twenty-five degrees south, which takes in Delagoa bay on the east coast, and that part of the west which is but little frequented, it will be perceived that a surface of territory may be acquired of a prodigious extent, and comprehending countries on which nature has bestowed her choicest favours. This portion of Africa is fairly open to the government of the Cape, provided the natives can be induced to consent to the establishment of European colonists, and their acquiescence could be soon obtained by gifts of little value to the donor, and their allegiance secured by a kind and liberal treatment in the course of their negotiations. The country once established on these principles would soon become productive, and ultimately prove of more value to the

British empire than all its settlements in the East and West Indies put together. I know this will be considered a bold assertion; but it arises from a positive conviction in my mind, and therefore I deliver it as an opinion which has been the result of general observation and inquiry.

In treating of the southern continent of Africa, I cannot, however, subscribe to the reports of some travellers, who have represented the whole of these regions as highly prolific. I understand this is not the case. In the countries of the little and great Namiquois, Kabobiquois, Houzouanas, &c. &c. which either skirt or are contiguous to the western coast, there are sandy deserts of considerable extent; but there are likewise immense plains of the finest pasturage; and it is generally supposed, from what has been already gathered on the margin of their streams, that minerals of the first class are to be found in the mountains. In the eastern parts, which include Caffraria, the country of the Auteniquois, Genequois, and various tribes of the Hottentot nation, I perceived a most luxuriant soil; and on

reaching the summit of their mountains, the eye frequently reposed on such a glowing scene of pastoral beauties, that to faithfully delineate the whole would require the inspired genius of Tasso, or the Mantuan. These plains are generally frequented by a kind of antelope or gazelle; and it is not unusual to perceive from the mountain tops thousands of these beautiful animals, alarmed by the lion, the tiger, the hyæna, or the panther, scouring over the valleys to secure a retreat, and forming a moving scenery of the most exquisite beauty.

The natives of Caffraria, as they seldom eat bread, are not acquainted with the cultivation of corn. Beyond the habitations of the Christian settlers a field of corn is not to be seen; but I believe no part of the world abounds in such flocks of cattle, or furnishes a greater plenty of game. These countries are just what nature made them, and the inhabitants, who erect their huts and form their kraals on the first spot they find that affords pasturage for their cattle, remain until it is consumed,

and then wander to some distant part, in search of a more propitious vegetation. The plough has never turned up the soil; the uses of it are unknown, and the natives live mostly on the produce of the chase. If they are not successful in hunting, and the hoorde labours under a temporary want, they sleep away their time, until, pressed by famine, they again renew the dangers of the forest. In these excursions they frequently encounter the lion, the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus, the buffalo, the panther, or the tiger; all are their food, and they frequently devour them without touching the fire. The oxen, which they possess in such abundance, it might reasonably be supposed, would protect them from want; but the natives prefer the flesh of the wild and carnivorous animals of the desert to the most delicate and nutricious parts of the sheep or the ox. The latter are kept by them chiefly as beasts of burden, or for the purposes of war; and in training them for offensive operations, discover a most extraordinary sagacity. They not only instruct the ox

to charge an enemy with all his strength, but in the confusion of the battle to distinguish his friends, and assist them in the combat. These creatures are also taught to protect their flocks from the ravages of such wild animals as range the deserts in quest of food, and are tremendous in their conflicts with them. In many of these countries oxen are so numerous, that one of the finest, not trained to war, may be frequently purchased for a single nail, and a sheep given in exchange for a glass bead, or a bit of wire.

Throughout the greater part of the southern continent of Africa the natives have no settled places for their residence. They occasionally wander from place to place, as their necessities direct, and frequently commence hostilities with each other, for the possession of certain districts, where vegetation is productive, and water contiguous. As they conceive all right to be derived from power only, the strongest hoorde takes possession, until they find it necessary to seek again some new habitation, or yield in their turn to a succeeding

conqueror. In this state of nature live a people who might be rendered civilized, and happily engaged in all the useful occupations of society.

The English have dependencies, particularly in the East, of immense extent, and they enjoy the advantages of a considerable population; but who can tell where the revolutionary principle that has lately made such gigantic strides throughout the continent of Europe will stop at last? If from any unforeseen occurrence the British settlements in India should become independent, their possessions in Africa would amply recompense the misfortune; and although such an event is not considered in England as within the scope of probability, yet I have seen in India what was sufficient to convince me, that to guard against such a contingency would, at this day, be a prudent measure in the British government.

The Dutch colonists, I have before observed, menaced the government of the Cape in more instances than one, and have shown a strong disposition to be freed from the Batavian yoke. But these colonists

were, in the first instance, badly chosen, and afterwards as badly managed. Most of the latter emigrants from Holland were convicts taken from their prisons, and when sent into the advanced colonies, were in a great measure left to their own discretion. To regulate the future conduct of the settlers, and prevent all depredations on the natives, it will be only necessary to place settlements on the eastern and western coasts, and establish a line of communication across this part of the continent. By these means the colonists will be prevented in future from advancing into the interior, unless by permission of the government, and their conduct always subjected to the control of the laws. In a few years the whole might form a regular establishment, and, wisely conducted, would remain for centuries the most valuable possession appertaining to the crown of England.

I have hitherto (observes the author) in the course of this address, principally considered the settlement of the Cape, and

those countries which may be fairly obtained from the native proprietors, as containing within themselves all the means necessary to a most extensive and profitable traffic. But as they are situated in the neighbourhood of one of the largest and finest islands in the world, the African colonies become invaluable. It is, perhaps, unnecessary to observe that I mean the Island of Madagascar. This country, which is nearly 1,000 miles in length from north to south, and something more than 300 in breadth, is situated not 350 miles from the S. E. coast of Africa, and abounds in cattle, corn, fish, fowl, and all those animals and vegetables found on the continent. Now, sir, what a scene is here displayed to the genius and commercial spirit of the English! If they retain the Cape of Good Hope, and its dependencies, they in fact command the Island of Madagascar; and that a most extensive commerce may arise from the joint co-operation of the two countries, under the control of a liberal and enlightened govern-

ment, is a fact, that, in my judgment, admits of no doubt or controversy whatever.

By endeavouring to explain the advantages that, in my opinion, would arise to the states of America from a settlement in Africa, I have done no more than what I conceive to be my duty. Born in that country, I feel the predominant impulse of our common nature, that gives the heart an interest in all that concerns its *native home.* But, sir, as I have been apprehensive you would consider a settlement of this description as a measure which American policy forbids at present, I have, likewise, directed my observations to the English nation, whose prosperity has ever had a second place in my affections. On this occasion I will venture an assertion (which I know in the estimation of some people will be considered as stretching beyond the bounds of probability) that if England, on the termination of hostilities, although she hath expended so many millions in prosecution of her contest with the French nation, still, if she relinquishes all her other

conquests and retains the Cape of Good Hope and its dependencies, she will be a gainer by the war.

I am now to describe those scenes of horror and misfortune which threw me and my people on the shores of Caffraria, as well as those which succeeded on our travel through the deserts. The narrative will form a melancholy detail; but I have been invited to publish it, and I have acquiesced from a belief that some useful information may be derived from a genuine description of the natives and their country. It is not improbable but some, either from curiosity or policy, may in a short time visit these regions, or others may be thrown, like myself, on their coasts naked and defenceless. To remove, therefore, such prejudices as have arisen from the deceptive tales of those settlers, who have so wickedly represented the natives as monsters that delight only in human slaughter, becomes a duty, as it may encourage future adventurers in their pursuits, and relieve the unfortunate from unnecessary apprehensions.

NARRATIVE.

CHAPTER I.

Sailing of the ship Hercules from Sagar-roads in the province of Bengal.—Description of the tempest.—Dreadful situation of the ship.—Second mate and three men ordered into the long boat.—Raft prepared.—Carpenter and sailors address the captain.—Remarkable instance of prejudice and intrepidity in a Lascar.—The captain holds a consultation with his officers.—Determines, if possible, to run the ship on the eastern coast of Africa.

The American ship Hercules which I commanded, and whose fate will be described in the succeeding Narrative, arrived at Bengal about the month of December, 1795. My intention was to take in a private freight for Hamburgh; but not finding one that would answer my expectations, I chartered my ship to the British East India Company, who were at that time busily employed in shipping rice for England. Intelligence having reached

the settlements in India that a failure of corn throughout the whole of Great Britain was likely to produce a famine, the most active and laudable exertions were made in India to supply the markets at home with rice; and I received on board upwards of nine thousand bags, with directions to proceed to London with every possible despatch. The crew, most of which I engaged in India, consisted of Americans, Danes, Swedes, Dutch, Portuguese, but chiefly Lascars, amounting in the whole, men and boys, to about sixty-four persons. The necessary arrangements for the voyage being completed, I sailed from Sagar-roads on the 17th of March, 1796.

Nothing material occurred during the voyage until the 1st of June following, at which time we reached the latitude of about 35 South, and 28, 40 East longitude. It then began to blow a gale from the westward, and which obliged us to lay to under our mizen stay-sail for about six days. During this time, the gale continued to blow from the West, but increased progressively until the seventh, when the con-

tentions of the sea and winds presented a scene of horror, of which, perhaps, the annals of marine history gives us no example. Although bred to the sea from my earliest life, yet all I had ever seen before, all I had ever heard of or read, gave me no adequate idea of those sublime effects which the violence and raging of the elements produce, and which, at this tremendous hour, seemed to threaten nature itself with dissolution. The ship, raised on mountains of water, was in a moment precipitated into an abyss, where she appeared to wait until the coming sea raised her again into the clouds. The perpetual roaring of the elements echoing through the void, produced such an awful sensation in the minds of the most experienced of the seamen, that several of them appeared for some time in a state of stupefaction; and those less accustomed to the dangers of the sea added to this scene of misery by their shriekings and exclamations.

The terrors of the day could only be surpassed by those of the night.—When the darkness came on, it is impossible for

man to describe or human imagination to conceive a scene of more transcendent and complicated horror. To fill up the measure of our calamities, about the hour of midnight, a sudden shift of wind threw the ship into the trough of the sea, which struck her aft, tore away the rudder, started the stern post from the hauden ends, and shattered the whole of her stern frame. The pumps were immediately sounded; and in the course of a few minutes the water had increased to four feet. I immediately ordered one gang to work the pumps, and the remainder were employed in getting up rice out of the run of the ship, and heaving it overboard, in order, if possible, to get at the leak. After three or four hundred bags were thrown into the sea, we got at the principal leak, and found the water pouring into her with astonishing rapidity. In order therefore to decrease as much as possible the influx of water, we thrust into the aperture sheets, shirts, jackets, bales of muslin, and every thing of the like description we could find. Had not these exertions been attended with

some success, the ship must certainly have gone down, although our pumps delivered fifty tuns of water an hour.

These pumps, to the excellent construction of which I owe my life, were made by Mr. Mann, of London; and I mention his name on this occasion, not only as a testimony of my sincere esteem, but for the purpose of recommending such useful talents to the general attention and encouragement of the community.

As the next day advanced, the weather appeared to moderate. The men worked incessantly at the pumps, and every exertion was made to keep the ship afloat. We were at this time about two hundred miles from the eastern coast of Africa.

On the ninth, although the violence of the tempest had in a great measure subsided, yet the swell of the sea was tremendous. I ordered, however, the long boat to be got out; but having reason to suspect that some of the crew would endeavour to make off with her, I directed my second mate and three seamen to take possession of her. I gave them arms, and also express

orders to shoot the first man who attempted to board her without my permission. I also instructed them to keep astern, but to stick by the ship until we came to an anchor.

The men having taken their stations in the boat, I ordered a raft to be made of all the large spars, which was accordingly done. The whole, when lashed together, measured about 35 feet in length, and 15 in breadth. As I apprehended the ship could not make the land, and was convinced, in case of her going down, that all the people could not be received into the long boat, I determined not to neglect any measure that presented even a chance of saving the whole.

When my second mate was preparing to obey my orders, and take command of the long boat, the carpenter requested me earnestly to leave the ship.—On my reprimanding him for not attending to the pumps, the man burst into tears, and declared that the whole of the stern frame was shook and loosened in such a manner, that he expected every hour she would go

down. The miserable appearance of this man, and the affecting tone of voice in which he delivered his apprehensions, I perceived had already increased the terrors of the crew. I therefore told him that I would perform my duty, and stick to the ship until I was convinced from my own observation that all hope of saving her was at an end. He repeated his solicitations, and I then commanded him to leave me, assuring him, at the same time, that unless he made every exertion to encourage the people in their duty, and immediately go himself to the pumps, I would, however painful to my feelings, have him thrown into the sea. He retired, and exerted himself afterwards with a manly perseverance.

I was immediately addressed on the departure of the carpenter by many of the sailors, and on the same subject. They were so clamorous, and differed so much in their opinions, that I was nearly going to extremes with some of them.

I mention these circumstances as a caution to future navigators, who are entrusted

with a command. They too frequently listen to the opinions of their people in time of danger, who are generally for quitting the ship and taking to boats, masts, yards and spars formed into rafts, or whatever timbers they can lash together; indeed, as the prejudices and sentiments of the common sailors on these occasions are so various, it is not to be supposed that any thing can arise from such a mistaken conduct but confusion and misfortune.

A crew, such as mine, composed of people of various nations, require indeed from their commander a peculiar attention. It may happen, that by humouring their religious prejudices at a particular moment, an essential service may be obtained; and as the following remarkable anecdote tends to elucidate this opinion, I will state the circumstances precisely as they occurred.

At a period when the tempest raged with the utmost violence, I had directed most of the crew below, particularly the Lascars, to work the pumps. One of them, however, I perceived coming up the gangway with a handkerchief in his hand; and on my

inquiring what he was about, he told me, and in a tone of voice that discovered a perfect confidence in the measure he proposed, that he was going to make an offering to his God. "This handkerchief," said he, "contains a certain quantity of rice, and all the rupees I am worth; suffer me to lash it to the mizen top, and rely upon it, sir, we shall all be saved." I was going to order him back again to the pumps; but recollecting that in so doing I might throw both him and his countrymen into a state of despondency, and thereby lose the benefits of their exertions, I acquiesced. The Lascar thanked me, and I soon beheld this child of prejudice mount the tottering ladder without discovering a single apprehension. He lashed the handkerchief to the mizen topmast head, fearless of all danger, and arrived in safety on the deck. After assuring me his God was now my friend, he went below to inform his brethren that he had done his duty; all the Lascars seemed transported with joy, embraced their virtuous companion, and then laboured at the

pumps with as much alacrity and perseverance as if they had encountered, before, neither apprehension nor fatigue. To their unceasing labours I owe in a great measure the preservation of my people.

The shift of wind which threw the ship into the trough of sea and tore away the rudder was fortunately but a squall of short duration, not continuing above a quarter of an hour. Had it lasted but a little longer, the ship must have been torn to pieces. The wind came round to its former quarter, and moderated gradually.

After the long boat had been delivered to the care of my second mate, and the raft completed, I held a consultation with my officers, and they were all decidedly of opinion, that it was impossible to save the ship, and that we had no other chance to preserve our lives than to make the land, and run her on shore.

The people, when informed of the issue of this consultation, appeared to work with renovated spirits. We kept up this disposition by assuring them we should soon be within sight of land, and that by constantly

working at the pumps, the ship would be kept afloat until we reached the shore.

The ship for some time being unmanageable, frequently standing with her head from the land, which all our efforts could not prevent, I got a rudder made out of the topmast, and fixed in the place of the one we had lost; but it was found of little use without the help of the long boat, which I ordered therefore to be hauled athwart her stern; and this served, although with the greatest difficulty, to get her head towards the shore, the wind being variable from the eastward. A cable could have been got out, that might have answered tolerably well to steer the ship; but the people could not be spared from the pumps to attend rousing in on the tackles, or guise, as occasion might require.

On the evening, however, of the 15th, we discovered land at about six leagues distance. All on board at this moment expressed their joy in shouts and acclamations. The ship still kept nearing the shore with five feet water in her hold.

On the 16th in the morning, being then about two miles from the land, and the

wind from the westward, I ordered the anchor to be let go, that a last effort might be made to stop the leaks, and, if possible, save the ship.

But her stern was shattered in such a manner, that, after holding another consultation with my officers, it was finally resolved to run the ship on the coast then opposite to us. Another gale threatened us, and no time was to be lost.

I immediately ordered my second mate, who was in the boat, to come on board, and I then delivered into his custody the ship's register, and all the papers of consequence I had. After providing him and his three men with water and provisions, I ordered him into the boat again, with directions to keep in the offing; and that after we had run the ship on shore, provided we got safe to land, I would search for some inlet into which he might run with safety. I desired him also to look out for signals, which would be occasionally thrown out from the shore to direct his course. He faithfully promised to obey my instructions, and then returned to his boat.

CHAPTER II.

Ship run on shore on the coast of Caffraria.—Dreadful situation of the crew.—Their manner of landing described.—Their reception by the natives.—Some curious and interesting particulars respecting Captain Coxson, commander of the Grosvenor, lost on the same coast, in 1782, and of several of his people, particularly a lady, who is now living with a Caffree chief.

We were now on the coast of Caffraria, within a few leagues where the river Infanta disembogues itself into the sea.

A dreadful crisis approached, and we agreed to meet it with becoming fortitude. I therefore gave directions to set the head sail, to heave the spring well tort, in order to get her head towards the shore, and then to cut the cable and the spring. My orders were obeyed with the greatest promptitude.

After running until within something less than half a mile of the shore, she struck on a cluster of rocks. The swell at this moment was tremendous; and, from the ship's thumping so violently, it was scarcely possible for the men to hold on. In this situa-

tion she remained for about three or four minutes, when a sea took her over the rocks, and carried her about a cable's length nearer the shore, where she again struck, and kept heaving in with a dreadful surf, which every moment made a break over her.

The lashings, that held the raft, having given way, and the spars carried to a considerable distance from the ship, we lost all hope from that quarter. At length, one of the crew, who was a black, plunged into the waves, and, by exertions which seemed more than human, gained and seated himself on the raft. He scarcely remained in that situation for ten minutes, when the whole was turned over, and the man completely enveloped in the sea. In a few moments, however, we perceived him in his former seat. Again he endured a similar misfortune; and a third succeeded. Still he buffeted the waves, and gained the raft, until at length, after suffering two hours of fatigue, which, until then, I could not possibly imagine human nature could survive, he drifted on shore.

The natives, who had kindled several fires,

appeared in great numbers on the shore. They were mostly clothed in skins, armed with spears, and accompanied by a vast number of dogs. A party of them seized the man who had landed, and conducted him behind the sand-hills that line the coast, and which hid him entirely from our view.

Twelve of my people now launched themselves on different spars, and whatever pieces of timber they could find. They braved all difficulties, and at last gained the land. No sooner had they reached the beach than the natives came down, seized and conducted them also behind the sand-hills. As it was impossible for us, who remained on board, to discover what they were about, and observing several parties of the natives appear at different times on the shore, but unaccompanied by any of my people, we conceived that all those who had landed were massacred, and that a similar calamity awaited the whole of us. We, who had remained on board the ship, were obliged to shelter ourselves in the fore-castle; as the wreck, becoming a fixed object, the sea made over her, and there was no other part

where we could remain, even for a moment, in a state of security.

During the whole of the night, all was uncertainty. Some were of opinion, that to avoid being tortured by the savages, perhaps thrown into the fires we had perceived on shore, it would be more advisable to resign ourselves to a watery element; as in that situation we should only endure a few struggles, and then life would be no more. Others entertained different sentiments, and were for making the shore in as compact a body as possible: "We shall then," said they, "attack the savages with stones, or whatever we can find." This was overruled, as a measure impracticable; there was no possibility of six men keeping together; but if such a number could, by a miracle, get on shore without being divided, the natives could destroy them in a moment with their spears. The whole of this miserable night was spent in such consultations; and as the next sun was to light us to our fate, we trembled at his approaching the horizon.

When the day appeared, we looked to-

wards the shore; but not an individual was to be seen. Distraction was now visible in every countenance, and what death to choose the principal consideration.

At length, about the hour of nine in the morning, the scene changed in a moment. A delirium of ecstasy succeeded, which no pencil can pourtray, no being can conceive, but those who beheld it. All the people who had landed the day before were observed making towards the shore; and we soon perceived them beckoning and inviting us to land. In a few minutes every spar, grating, and piece of timber that could be procured, were afloat, and completely occupied; some with two people, others with more, according to its size. I immediately stript off my shirt, put on a short jacket, wrapt a shawl round my waist, in the corner of which I put a gold watch, and keeping my breeches on, seized a spar, and launched into the sea. For nearly three quarters of an hour I preserved my hold, and drifted towards the shore. Sometimes I was cast so near as to touch the rocks with my feet, then hurried away to a con-

siderable distance: again I was precipitated forward, and in a moment afterwards carried off by the returning sea. At length a sudden jirk, occasioned by the swell, strained both my arms, and I was compelled to quit the spar. At this instant, although a considerable distance from the beach, a wave that was proceeding rapidly towards the shore bore me along, and in a few moments cast me senseless on the sands. My people, who were on shore, observed my situation; they ran down, and, snatching me from the danger of the coming waves, bore me to a place of security. I was insensible at this time, but soon revived, as they placed me near a fire, and used every means in their power for my recovery.

The first subject of my inquiry, when my faculties returned, was of course the fate of my unfortunate crew; and I enjoyed the heartfelt pleasure of beholding them all around me, except those in the long-boat, and one man, who perished near the shore.

I then addressed myself to the natives; but on this occasion I laboured under the difficulty of not being understood. I knew

nothing of their language, and for some time I endeavoured to explain myself by signs. Fortunately there was a Hottentot present, who had lived with the Dutch farmers, and could speak their language. My third mate was a Dutchman, and these served as interpreters.

This difficulty being happily removed, I endeavoured by every means in my power to secure the friendship of the natives. I thanked them in the name of my whole crew, and on the part of my nation, for the liberal and humane assistance they had afforded us in the hour of our misfortune, and solicited their future kindness and support.

This being, as I conceived, at no great distance from the spot where the Grosvenor was lost in 1782, I inquired of the natives whether any of them remembered such a catastrophe. Most of them answered in the affirmative, and, ascending one of the sand-hills, pointed to the place where the Grosvenor suffered.

I then desired to know of them whether they had received any certain accounts re-

specting the fate of Captain Coxson who commanded the Grosvenor, and who was proceeding on his way to the Cape with several men and women passengers, who were saved from the wreck. They answered, that Captain Coxson and the men were slain. One of the chiefs having insisted on taking two of the white ladies to his kraal, the captain and his people resisted, and, not being armed, were immediately destroyed. The natives, at the same time, gave me to understand, that at the period when the Grosvenor was wrecked, their nation was at war with the colonists; and as the captain and his crew were whites, they could not tell, provided they had reached the christian farms, but they would assist the colonists in the war. This affected my situation so directly, that I desired to know on what terms the Caffrees and the colonists then stood.—"We are friends," said they, "and it will be their fault if we are not "always also."

This answer relieved me from a very serious embarrassment; but the fate of the two unfortunate ladies gave me so much

uneasiness, that I most earnestly requested of them to tell me all they knew of their situation; whether they were alive or dead, and, if living, in what part of the country they were situated. They replied, and with apparent concern, that one of the ladies had died a short time after her arrival at the kraal; but they understood the other was living, and had several children by the chief.—"Where she now is," said they, "we "know not."

After I had received every possible information on this melancholy subject, we employed ourselves principally during the remainder of the day in assisting the natives to save whatever came on shore from the wreck. When they got a piece of timber, they placed it immediately on the fire, as the readiest method of procuring the iron, which they sought after with the most persevering diligence.

When night came on, the natives retired; and we were left to sleep under the sand-hills, without covering and without food. The weather was boisterous, the wind blowing hard from the westward, and the cold

severe. We therefore consulted in what manner we should dispose of ourselves until the morning, and we at length resolved that some of us should keep watch during the night, and the rest place themselves near the fire, and, if possible, obtain a little rest.

The night passed without any of us enjoying a moment of repose. Our bodies on one side were heated by the fire; but the cold chilled the other in such a manner as to render the pain hardly supportable. The sand, driven by the winds in prodigious quantities, filled our eyes, ears, and mouths, as we lay under the banks, and kept us in perpetual motion. We likewise entertained apprehensions respecting the natives. I had in the course of the day requested them to assist in preparing for our journey towards the colonies; but they received these solicitations, as I thought, with coolness, and did not seem willing to part with us so soon. Perplexed with these suspicions, and suffering the most disagreeable inconveniences from our situation, we waited the approach of morn with the most impatient solicitude.

CHAPTER III.

The Caffree chief presents a bullock to the crew.—The captain gives him a pair of paste knee-buckles, and hangs them to his ears.—The savage highly pleased.—The captain's interesting conversation with the chief about the existence of a Deity.—Former accounts respecting their opinions on this subject refuted.—The Caffrees procure several shirts, jackets, and trowsers from the wreck.—Do not know how to put them on.—Instructed by the captain and his people.—The Caffrees suspected of having an intention to massacre or detain the crew.

At length day appeared, and the Caffrees returned in greater numbers. Their chief knowing we were in want of food, brought us a bullock; which they immediately slaughtered by knocking the animal on the head with clubs, and penetrating its sides with their spears. It was skinned almost in a moment, and they cut it up in lumps, which they placed on the fire to singe rather than to roast, and then devoured

their respective shares with the highest satisfaction. The beast, as it was given to us, it might be supposed would be left for our disposal; but the Caffrees were hungry, and they know nothing of European etiquette. It is true, they presented the bullock to us as a donation, but they saw no reason why they should not dispose of the greater part of it.

On cutting up the animal, I observed they paid a more than ordinary attention to the paunch. Several of the Caffrees laid violent hands on it; and, after giving it a shake for the purpose of emptying the contents, they tore the greater part in slips with their teeth, and swallowed the whole as it came warm from the beast.

Our meal, such as it was, being finished, we proceeded to the shore, and I observed the long boat at a considerable distance. We threw out signals, but could not perceive they were observed. The ship was dividing very fast, and the gale increasing; many things were therefore cast on shore, which the Caffrees were indefatigable in procuring. A cask, however, was thrown

on the beach, at the sight of which I confess all my apprehensions were redoubled. It contained sixty gallons of rum, a quantity sufficient to have intoxicated the whole of the natives, although they amounted to at least 300. I had heard of their fondness for such liquors, and dreaded the consequences of their being inebriated. The only way left was to steal to the spot where the cask lay and stave in the head, without being perceived by them. This I happily accomplished, and they afterwards stripped the vessel of the iron hoops, without discovering what I had done, or what it formerly contained.

In the general search on the shore, one of the Caffrees had picked up the ship's compass. Not knowing what it was, yet pleased with its formation, he delivered it to the chief, who immediately took it to pieces; and after contemplating the various parts, took the copper ring in which it hung, and suspended it from his neck. He appeared highly pleased with the ornament; and this circumstance induced me to present him with one still more

glittering, and of course, in his estimation, more valuable. Recollecting that I wore a pair of paste knee-buckles, I took them out, and after having prepared two loops, I hung one upon each of his ears. The moment this was done, the chief stalked about with an air of uncommon dignity. His people seemed to pay him greater reverence than before; and they were employed for some time in gazing at the brilliancy of the ornaments, and contemplating the august deportment of their chief magistrate. The European may smile at this recital; the exhibition of my knee-buckles may indeed provoke his risibility, but when he treats the feelings of the savage on this occasion with contempt, let him bestow a thought on the star, the garter, or the coronet, and then make a sensible distinction if he can.

As this donation gave me a powerful interest with the chief, I resolved, during my stay with the Caffrees, to procure every possible information respecting the customs, manners, and opinions of these people. Some travellers have reported, that the

natives of Caffraria are the only savages on the southern continent of Africa who entertain any idea of a Supreme Being. Others have asserted, that *all* the inhabitants of these regions are totally ignorant, not only of such an existence, but are also strangers to any opinion respecting a future state.

To be convinced how the matter really stood, I embraced the present opportunity, and entered into conversation on this subject with the chief, through the medium of our interpreters. After giving him a further description of the tempest, and the miseries we had so recently endured, I added, "that, as it was the pleasure of the Almighty to afflict his creatures, it would be impious in us to repine at his will." The savage, after some consideration, declared he did not understand what I meant by the Almighty. I explained to him my ideas of the Divinity. That he was a Being of such transcendent power, as to create the world on which we lived, the sun, moon, and stars; and that they all moved and were directed by his hand. His counte-

nance on this occasion demonstrated that his mind was a perfect void respecting such opinions; but after a few moments of reflection, he asked, if the Being I had described possessed a power sufficient to control the seas and the winds? I answered immediately in the affirmative. "Then," said he, "can you tell me his rea-"sons for suffering the tempest to throw "you and your people on our coast?" I replied, that his reasons for so doing were above our comprehensions; but that, as he was not only all powerful but just, we should remain satisfied that all his acts were good and beneficent. When this was explained to the chief, I observed a smile on his countenance; but starting, as if a sudden and hostile thought had seized his mind, he desired to know "if my Almighty "could tame the wild animals of the de-"serts?" I replied, that he certainly could. "If this be true," exclaimed the savage, "he must be a very wicked Being, for "he suffered a lion to kill and eat my "father." As I had obtained the informa-

tion I wanted, and observing the passions of the man highly agitated at the recollection of his father's melancholy fate, I thought it necessary to change the conversation, and we immediately proceeded towards the shore.

The principal part of my people, and most of the Caffrees, were employed during this conversation on the beach; and I had the satisfaction to observe they had procured several pairs of trowsers, many shirts, jackets, pieces of timber, and some cordage. I had before picked up four shirts and a pair of trowsers, which I then wore. The natives seemed highly pleased with their new habiliments, but they did not know how to put them on. Some had placed the back part of the shirt before, and others had done the same with the jackets and the trowsers. The moment I perceived their mistake, I went up to one of the Caffrees, who was endeavouring to button the collar of a shirt behind, and adjusted his dress. My people did the like with several others; and these civil attentions

pleased them so much, that for some time all was merriment, dancing, singing, and good humour.

Their revels being ended, I again addressed the chief on the subject of our departure. I requested he would send a guide with us through the deserts to the first christian settlement, and that nothing should be wanting on my part to recompense his kindness. He paused for a moment, and then very coolly replied, that he would gratify my wishes. I begged to know the time when he would suffer us to depart. He gravely answered, " when " I consider that matter, you shall be made " acquainted with my determination." These answers, I own, alarmed me. The countenance of the savage appeared to discover some hostile measure that was lurking in his mind; and yet his former conduct was so liberal and humane, that I had no just grounds for suspecting his integrity. I perceived, however, the natives consulting together in parties, and from their gestures we could not interpret any thing favourable to our wishes. What still added to our

uneasiness was their abrupt departure. When the day was drawing to a close, they disappeared, and left us to rest under the sand-hills, as on the former night.

We recruited our fires with some timber from the wreck, and then placed sentinels as before. The wind blowing hard from the same quarter, we were again tormented with clouds of sand, and a chilling atmosphere. June being one of their winter months, we had to encounter the severities of the season. It was impossible to shift our quarters, as we could not procure timber to light new fires, and the Caffrees might be displeased at our not remaining in our former situation. The night passed in consultations and gloomy predictions. I told my people not to do any act that might have the least tendency to displease the natives; to give them every thing they asked for, as the inhabitants of these deserts were only to be dreaded when provoked. But, at the same time, if, contrary to our expectation, they made an attack, or endeavoured to detain us after a certain time, then I hoped we should firmly unite, and

either force our way, or perish in the conflict.

My people heard me with great attention, and faithfully promised to observe my directions.

When the sun made his appearance, we mounted the most elevated of the sand-hills to look out for the long boat; but she was not to be discovered in any direction. In a short time we perceived the Caffrees advancing. Most of them had assaygays in their hands; others furnished with clubs; some were decorated with ostrich feathers, and their chief wearing a leopard skin, with my knee-buckles suspended as before. They saluted us in a very friendly manner, and we accompanied them to the beach. The wind had increased during the night, and several parts of the ship came on shore. One of my people had picked up a hand-saw, and as he perceived the Caffrees were indefatigable in procuring iron, he hid it in the sands. This was a valuable acquisition, and became of infinite service to us in the course of our proceedings.

CHAPTER IV.

The natives in a sham fight show their manœuvrings in battle.—Manner of throwing the assaygay described.—The long boat and crew never seen or heard of more.—Caffree chief consents to their departure.—Provides them with guides.—Conducts them to a brook of fresh water which ran through the hollow of a sequestered wood.—Apprehensions of the crew respecting the Caffrees described.—Natives and the crew remain together all night in the hollow.—Fresh alarms.—Caffree chief presents the captain on the next day with another bullock.—The departure of the crew on the ensuing morning, and the kind behaviour of the natives on that occasion described.

Having secured all we could obtain at present from the wreck, I requested the chief to order some of his people to show me how they used their assaygays. This is a spear of about four feet six inches in length, made of an elastic wood, and pointed with iron, which they contrive to poison so effectually, that if it wounds either man or beast, death is the inevitable consequence.

My wishes were immediately gratified. They first placed a block of wood on the ground, and then retired about seventy yards from the spot where it lay. The chief then told me I would now behold their manner of fighting when engaged in battle. These compliances, as they seemed to remove my former suspicions, gave me great satisfaction. A party of about thirty began their manœuvrings. They first ran to a considerable distance; then fell, as if motionless, on the ground; in a moment they started up, divided, joined again, and ran in a compact body to the spot from whence they originally set out. After halting for about a minute, they let fly a shower of assaygays at the mark, and with a precision that was truly astonishing. After several exhibitions that displayed a wonderful dexterity in the management of the assaygay, they came up smiling to where we stood, as if they wished us to deliver our sentiments on what we had just seen. I applauded their courage, their conduct, and their agility, and assured them, that when I reached the Cape I would

represent them all to the governor as a people that deserved every consideration and encouragement. When this was interpreted to the chief, I looked him steadily in the face, that I might observe what effect it produced. He observed only, and with great composure, that he understood the Cape was at a prodigious distance. I did not think it prudent to press him so soon again on the subject of our departure. I therefore requested he would suffer me to throw an assaygay, and I had the honour of receiving one of his own for the experiment. I appeared such a novice to the savages on this occasion, that the chief instructed me how to throw it with effect. This is done by giving a trembling motion to the wrist, and as the shaft quivers, it is delivered by a sudden jerk, aided by every strength the arm can afford. I improved so much on the second trial, that I had the honour of a smile from my preceptor, who appeared to say, if you continue with us, we will make you an adept.

Not a word more passed this day about our departure. The natives retired as

usual on the approach of night, and we to our sand-hills. All were employed to gather wood for our fires; and after procuring a sufficient quantity, we stretched ourselves on the ground, and, in spite of wind, sand, and cold, slept until the morning.

When day appeared, we were again all employed in looking out for the long boat; but she was not to be seen. We began now to despair of ever hearing of her again. Indeed our worst predictions were afterwards fulfilled, for we never heard of or saw her more.

The Caffrees did not visit us this day until the sun had proceeded two hours in his course; but at length they came. As little now was to be procured from the wreck, I begged the chief to inform me if he had appointed a guide for us, as I proposed taking my departure on the next day. "I shall furnish you with *two*," said he. These joyful tidings were delivered with so much frankness, that my mind was relieved at once from all apprehension and suspicion.

Desirous of having the Hottentot who served us as an interpreter to accompany us through the deserts, I gave the chief to understand how much the services of this man would not only contribute to our pleasure but our safety. The honest savage, however, had anticipated my wishes; he had previously mentioned it to the Hottentot, who had consented to proceed with us to the first christian farm. Another of the tribe, who was better acquainted with the country, had likewise agreed to be of the party; and this information, which I communicated to my people, diffused a general joy and satisfaction.

After assuring the chief and the Caffrees in general of my unalterable friendship, and that our guides should be rewarded to the extent of their wishes, I told him we had endured great distress for want of water, and begged to know where we could procure some. "I will conduct you," said he, "to a spring of excellent water; it is not far from this place; and, if you think proper, we will proceed directly to the spot."—No sooner was the proposal made

than we set out; the Caffrees singing and dancing as they proceeded, and my people, although not without suspicion, in tolerable spirits.

After travelling westward about four miles through a delightful country, we came at last to a wood, in the bosom of which we perceived a hollow. The Caffrees descended first, and when we all arrived at the bottom, the chief pointed to the brook. We drank of the water, and found it delicious. Our thirst being allayed, we looked about us, and from the dismal appearance of the place, our fears were again renewed. My people were mostly of opinion that nothing less was intended by the Caffrees than to massacre the whole party in this sequestered place; that we were decoyed here for the purpose; and that every man should prepare to defend his life. I endeavoured to quiet their apprehensions, and at last succeeded.

The Caffrees having told us we had better remain here during the night, we began to prepare wood for our fires. All hands went to work, and by the assistance of our

hand-saw, we procured some dry trees and underwood that afforded us a very comfortable fire. One of the Hottentots, who was so rich as to possess a tinder-box, struck a light; and this accommodation being not only highly useful but unexpected, gave new spirits to the whole of my people.

The natives, as the night came on, did not retire as usual to their kraal. This gave a fresh alarm to my men; and although I endeavoured to calm their apprehensions by every means in my power, still I confess their uneasiness did not appear to be without some cause. We were obliged, however, situated as we then were, to abide the event, and we prepared for the worst that could happen. Our watch was set as formerly; but the Caffrees huddling together, were soon lost in sleep. This place, however dismal in its appearance, afforded us tolerable shelter for the night; we were no longer troubled with clouds of sand, and the severities of the wind and cold were mitigated by the friendly shade afforded us by the trees.

We were roused by the savages as the

sun appeared, and we departed from this supposed Golgotha in tolerable spirits. We had, however, consumed the last pound of our bullock before we left the sand-hills, and our party began to dread an approaching famine. I mentioned the distress of my people to the chief, and he promised to relieve us. We had journeyed but a few miles when the Caffrees told us we must remain where we were that night. We accordingly set to work to procure firewood, and had scarcely completed this necessary business, when the chief presented us with another bullock. It was soon despatched, skinned, cut into pieces of about four pounds each, and we then proceeded to dress them as provision for our journey. This was a business of so much importance, that most of the day was spent in accomplishing it.

The night passed with less apprehension than before, and when the morning came we prepared for our departure.

The moment now arrived when the real intentions of the Caffrees were to be developed. The natives came about us, and

assisted in dividing the provisions. Each man was to carry his own stock, which amounted to about three or four pounds of beef; this, with some biscuits, which a few of my people had contrived to preserve from the wreck, was to serve us until we reached a christian settlement. So far from any appearance of hostility, the natives seemed to view our departure with regret. I took the chief by the hand, and thanked him for his great and friendly attentions to me and my unfortunate crew; assuring him, at the same time, that if I survived the journey, it would ever be my first consideration to render him and his people some essential service. He thanked me, and then requested I would tell the colonists our ship was lost at sea, and so distant from the land, that no part of her could possibly reach the shore. He also desired me to place the utmost confidence in my guides, as they would certainly direct me for the best. After my people and the natives had exchanged some mutual civilities, we parted, and gave one another a last and affectionate adieu.

CHAPTER V.

Description of the country near the wreck.—Genuine character of the Tambouchis delineated.—Cause of the last war between the Colonists and Caffrees explained.—Why the Tambouchis did not suffer the crew to depart sooner.—Their reasons.—Narrative continued.—Crew destitute of shoes.—Countries through which they passed described.—Alarming situation of the party at night.—Not molested by the animals of the deserts.

Before I proceed in this narrative, I will endeavour to give the reader some idea of the country that lay before us when we landed on the beach; a few traits likewise of the general character of the natives, and explain their motives for not suffering us to depart until the fourth day; and which, for some time, appeared so ambiguous, as to give both me and my people the most serious inquietude.

During our miserable abode under the sand-hills, we frequently contemplated the

scene before us. Nearly as far as the eye could travel, we beheld a country finely wooded, and, considering the season, which was their winter, producing a most bountiful vegetation. Their cattle appeared in such prodigious numbers as to baffle calculation; and their condition, which was equal to the best fed oxen in Great Britain, clearly demonstrated the richness of their pasturage. Sheep were not to be discovered, nor could we perceive the most distant traces of agricultural labour.

The country in our view was of an immense extent, yet surrounded by a chain of hills that appeared to contain the fountains of those numerous rivulets which glided through the plain in a variety of directions. The mimosa tree appeared native to the soil, and the woods were so beautifully interspersed, as to give the lands all the appearance of a plantation originally designed by art, and afterwards perfected by the hand of elegance. In my opinion, the whole wanted nothing but villages, corn, and inhabitants, to render this spot an enviable abode for the most

enlightened and luxurious of our countrymen.

The natives who received us on the shore, and whose humanity we experienced in the hour of our misfortune, are a Caffree tribe, known by the appellation of Tambouki or Tambuckees. They have been described as the most ferocious, vindictive, and detestable class of beings that inhabit the vast and fertile territory of Caffraria, not yielding even to the Boshismen in every act of massacre, inhumanity, and devastation.

A calumny so undeserved, so atrocious, and possibly so mischievous in its tendency, I cannot suffer to pass without censure and contradiction; nor can I at this moment reflect on the genuine character of these people without considering their calumniators as a banditti of christian ruffians, who propagate these slanders for the purpose of covering their enormities; and which, if not stopped by the hand of power, must eventually lead to a total extirpation of a harmless and unoffending race. Had they really been savages, and felt, like their

christian persecutors, " no compunctious visitings of nature," they would have destroyed the whole of my unfortunate crew, and this massacre might have been perpetrated without the natives running even the hazard of a punishment. The clothing of my people, although of little value in a country of trade and civilization, would have been to them a most important acquisition, or they could have gratified, nay, even satiated cruelty, by stripping and leaving us naked to all the horrors of the wilderness, a prey to famine, or the wild and ferocious animals of the deserts. But these humane yet calumniated savages felt as men whose souls were truly affected at our misfortunes, and acting from the virtuous impulse of their nature, voluntarily gave to the unhappy consolation and support. We were mostly whites, but still they were our friends. The black and voluminous catalogue of miseries, which they and their progenitors had so long endured from savages of our colour, faded at once on their remembrance when they beheld our distresses.—Such was the conduct, and

such are the native feelings of the honest, honest Tambouchis.

The profligate character ascribed to these unoffending people originated in motives of still superior wickedness. The colonists are the fabricators of these tales, and propagate them throughout the country, and at the Cape, with uncommon industry. When the natives, incensed at an unprovoked and designed aggression of a colonist, retaliate and kill a white man, the intelligence is sure to be conveyed immediately to the seat of government, but without ever so much as hinting at the real cause of the dispute. The poor savages are described as a herd of wolves prowling throughout the country, and devastating wherever they come. The christian farmers seizing this opportunity, immediately assemble, penetrate the country of the people they call their enemies, and then massacre entire hordes without any distinction of sex or infancy. Their object being chiefly to get possession of the cattle, they drive whole herds before them, and then wait until they hear of more being within their reach,

when a similar depredation is committed. To elucidate this matter still farther, I shall here relate an anecdote which I learnt in the course of our proceeding towards the christian settlements.

One of our guides suddenly called out to the party to halt. On my desiring to know his reason, he said, "be so good as "to look attentively on the spot where "you now stand; it is an unfortunate "place, but worthy your consideration."— Not observing any thing that particularly arrested my notice, I requested he would explain himself.—"On this spot," continued the savage, "two of my country- "men a few years since were employed in "attending their cattle. At that time "we enjoyed a profound peace with the "colonists, and harboured no suspicion of "their intending to injure us. In a mo- "ment, however, our two men were fired "upon from yonder thicket. One fell "dead on the spot, the other, being only "wounded, was so fortunate as to make "his escape. The settlers then took pos- "session of our cattle, and drove them

" home to their farms. Intelligence of " this murder and robbery was soon con- " veyed throughout the hordes, and oc- " casioned the last war between the colo- " nists and the Caffrees."

The poor fellow told this melancholy story with so much feeling and simplicity, that I could entertain no doubt of his veracity. I then asked him, if all the colonists were of this abominable disposition? He answered, " I hope not;" and indeed, on this occasion, I conceive it would be unjust in me to publish any thing that might be mistaken for a general censure on the whole of the settlers. There are exceptions, and I think it necessary this should be understood, as I have known many of them who hold the general conduct of their marauding neighbours in the utmost abhorrence, and wish for nothing more sincerely than their expulsion from the colonies.

Our two guides likewise explained the reasons why the Caffrees detained us so long. They told us, that when they consulted together respecting our departure,

it was resolved not to suffer us to proceed until they got every thing that could be procured from the wreck. They conceived we would inform the colonists of our misfortune; and that notwithstanding they had no right to pass the Fish River, still they knew the settlers would come in search of plunder, and which really happened, as I have observed in my introduction to this Narrative.

I then asked one of the guides if his countrymen had, during our stay under the sand-hills, ever meditated our destruction. The good savage seemed offended at this question; he shook his head, and emphatically declared, they never once entertained such an inhuman thought. "No, no, no," he said, "that would be "a very bad thing. We kill no body but "in war.—No, no, no, indeed no!" His answer was thus interpreted to me, and dismissing the horrid appellation of savage at once from my recollection, I embraced him as my deliverer and my friend.

NARRATIVE CONTINUED.

We did not take our departure on the morning of the 23d until the sun was well up. Our guides were intelligent, and gave us to understand that we must on no account travel early, as the wild beasts constantly rose with the sun, and then ranged the deserts in quest of their prey. As we were all unarmed, a single lion, leopard, or panther, could have destroyed the most of us. It became, therefore, highly necessary we should not stir until these animals had satisfied their hunger, and were retired for the day.

Notwithstanding this cautious and necessary advice, and which was given with a laudable earnestness for our preservation, still my people were so desirous of getting on, that they grew uneasy; but the guides could not be induced to quit the fires until about nine o'clock; at which time we all proceeded, and in good spirits.

Not more than three or four of our party were at this moment in possession of shoes. We had many hundred miles

to travel over unknown countries, to ascend mountains of stupendous elevation, penetrate woods, traverse deserts, ford rivers; and yet we were to combat all these difficulties bare-footed, not having saved above four pair of shoes, and even these but in sad condition.

As my feet were naked, like most of my people's, one of them offered me an old pair of boots which he then wore; but I refused them. My habiliments were a short jacket, a table-cloth, which I found on the shore, wrapt round my loins; a shawl over it; four shirts which I wore at the same time; a pair of trowsers, and a hat.

We bore to the westward on our setting out, for the purpose of obtaining fresh water in the course of our journey. Our guides observed, that near the coast the water was generally brackish; we therefore struck into the interior, and were not entirely disappointed in our expectations.

The country through which we travelled was beautifully variegated with hills, dales, extensive plains finely watered, but less wooded than the former. The grass ap-

peared of an extraordinary height; but in the course we pursued, not a human foot-step could be traced; no cattle, no sign of cultivation, could be observed. We were not interrupted by any beast of prey, although we constantly perceived their dung. At length, after travelling about thirty-five miles, we began to feel the want of water.

After searching for this indispensable aliment with the utmost anxiety and attention, we were so fortunate as to discover, before sun-set, a brook that run near the corner of a wood; and here we determined to rest for the night. We began, therefore, to prepare a sufficient quantity of fuel. The wood was chiefly composed of trees that partook in some degree of the nature of our thorn: we cut several, and arranged our fires. One of the Caffrees struck a light, and the whole, in a few minutes, was in a blaze. The tinder which he provided was of a particular description; it consisted of a pithy substance extracted from a reed, and so tenacious of fire, that a single spark from the steel caught it in a moment.

The weather being cold, we resolved to sleep close to one another; but the guides told us the place we had fixed upon to rest during the night was known to be infested with leopards, and that, if they scented the party, nothing could prevent them from destroying some of us. This intelligence induced us to enlarge our fires, and we began to consult upon other measures, that were likely to contribute also to our preservation. But such is the powerful influence of sleep over the harassed soul, that our conversation had scarcely commenced on this important subject, when we were all relieved from any sense of danger, by gently falling into the arms of Morpheus, and where we remained in perfect security until the morning.

No sooner had the sun peeped above the horizon than we were all roused by the tremendous roaring of lions. Never were men in a situation more truly alarming. Had they discovered us during the night, we must have been torn to pieces when sleeping, as not an individual could attend the watch, or keep awake even for an hour. We therefore congratulated one another

on finding we had all escaped, and set out about seven in the morning, in company with our guides.

We soon arrived at the bank of a small river, which, being perfectly dry, we crossed without difficulty. Shortly after we came to another, which we likewise passed in a few minutes. We reached at length some highlands, from the tops of which we discovered several beautiful vales clothed with long dry grass, small clusters of trees, and in other places forests of considerable extent, skirting mountains of different elevations.

In the course of the day, we were in great distress for want of water, and lost much time in the pursuit of it. Indeed we almost despaired of finding any, as the earth appeared so dry as to exhaust all the brooks we had visited. Luckily, however, about sun-set, we discovered a small rivulet that ran near the skirt of a forest; and although the water was not good, yet still it relieved us from a dreadful situation.

We had this day travelled about thirty miles, and therefore determined to remain

where we were during the night. All hands, therefore, went immediately to work, for the purpose of getting fuel. We had seen no wild animals in the course of the day, but frequently observed the dung of the elephant and the rhinoceros.

As our situation for this night was as dangerous and deplorable as on the preceding one, we determined to enlarge our fires, as the only means of safety we had left. This was accordingly done, and we had the pleasure to find, when the day appeared, that not an individual was missing of the whole party.

CHAPTER VI.

The captain and his party stopt by a bad tribe of Caffrees.—An enraged Caffree described.—They arrive on the summit of a mountain, which affords a prospect transcendently beautiful—Fortify themselves against the attack of wild animals during the night.—Thirty-six of the crew, unable to proceed, are left behind.—The captain, and twenty-four of his people, go on—Find a christian habitation deserted—Arrive next day at Jan Du Pliesies, a Dutch settler.—Their reception, together with the character and family of the colonist described.—Waggon and guards sent for the relief of such of the crew as remained in the deserts.

We set out this morning, shortly after sun-rising; and, as we were to travel through a wood of considerable extent, our guides told us to be upon our guard, as we should certainly be interrupted by wild animals, as they resorted to this place in prodigious numbers. We determined, notwithstanding, to brave all dangers, and accordingly proceeded. We indeed escaped the lions, the panthers, the rhinoceros, the elephant, &c. but, unfortunately, about noon, came up

with a horde of Caffrees, that were distinguished by their own countrymen as a bad tribe. We spoke at first to some Caffree women, who behaved kindly, and gave us one or two baskets of milk. These are made of twigs, wove so closely together as to hold water.

We had proceeded but a short way, after receiving this instance of female liberality, when we were stopped by twelve Caffree men, armed with spears, and clothed in leopard skins. Our guides, alarmed at the appearance of these savages, flew to the banks of the great Fish River; which at that time was not more than two hundred yards from the place where we stood. We repeatedly called to them to return, but in vain; they immediately crossed the bed of the river, which was dry, and, having reached the opposite shore, ascended an adjoining mountain with the utmost precipitation.

The savages brandished their spears, and appeared by their gestures to menace the destruction of us all. We could not understand what they said; but we supposed they demanded from us whatever articles

we possessed; and as these principally consisted of the little stock of provisions we had left, and our clothes, we determined not to part with either.

One of my people had a knife, which was slung over his shoulder. A Caffree perceiving it, made a snatch at the handle; but the owner resisting, he lost his hold. This so enraged the savage, that he lifted up his assaygay with an apparent intention of despatching the object of his resentment.

At the moment he stood in this attitude, a more finished picture of horror, or what we understand of the infernals, was perhaps never seen before. The savage wore a leopard's skin; his black countenance bedaubed with red ochre; his eyes, inflamed with rage, appeared as if starting from their sockets; his mouth expanded, and his teeth gnashing and grinning with all the fury of an exasperated demon. At this instant, the *tout ensemble* of the figure would have been a subject highly deserving the pencil of a Raphael.

The savage was diverted from his purpose, and dropt the assaygay. We instantly

proceeded to the river, and crossed it in pursuit of our guides. They were standing on the summit of the mountain when we came up, and expressed the utmost satisfaction at our escape. They gave us a terrible description of the people we had just left, and assured us, if the remainder of their horde had not been hunting at the time we got to the Fish River, not a man of us would have survived. Our guides also told us they were the most abominable horde throughout the whole of Caffraria.

Our conversation lasted but a few minutes, when we resolved to descend the mountain, and pursue our journey. We had scarcely put ourselves in motion, when a scene of the most extensive and luxuriant beauties burst in a moment on our view. The danger we had just escaped engaged our attention so entirely, when we gained the summit, that we did not immediately perceive the world of beauties that now lay spread before us. All stood for some time in a state of rapture and amazement. The country was mostly a level, yet pleasingly diversified with gentle elevations, on the tops of which we could perceive clumps of

of the mimosa tree, and the sides clothed with shrubs of various denominations. A thousand rivulets seemed to meander through this second Eden ; frequently skirting or appearing to encircle a plantation of wood; then suddenly taking a different direction, glided through a plain of considerable extent, until it came to a gentle declivity; here it formed a natural cascade, and then, following its course, proceeded in an endless variety throughout the whole of the country.

As we stood gazing on this sylvan scene, we perceived innumerable herds of animals, particularly of the species of the gazelle, scouring over the plains; some darting through the woods, others feeding, or drinking at the rivulets. As far as the eye travelled in pursuit of new beauties, it was most amply gratified, until at length the whole gradually faded on the view, and became lost in the horizon.

We were so wrapt in ecstasy at this landscape, that we forgot our danger, and remained too long upon the mountain. We at length descended, and proceeded on our journey.

Before the day closed, we fixed on a place where we were to remain until the morning. It was near a wood, mostly composed of that kind of thorn which I have mentioned before. Several of these we immediately cut, not only for the purpose of fuel, but to form a barricade or defence against the wild animals during the night.

After completing our fortification, lighting our fires, and supping in the best manner possible, we lay down to rest; but our sleep was constantly disturbed during the night, by a herd of elephants, brushing through the wood, passing and returning almost every moment. Had not our fence been erected the preceding evening, we should, in all probability, have been trampled to death by these monstrous animals. We had the good fortune, however, to escape; and, about seven the next morning, we proceeded on our journey, in company with our guides.

We likewise travelled this day through a delightful country. The land, in some places, seemed to be composed of a red and yellow clay, and the valleys appeared

covered with a very thick and long grass, but not a sign of agriculture was to be observed. In the course of the day, we perceived a few deserted huts, one of which we entered. We paid severely for our curiosity, as those who ventured in were in a moment covered entirely over with fleas.

We sometimes found water; but it was brackish, although we were at least fifty miles from the sea. We kept at this distance during the most of our journey.

We brought up for the night, after travelling about 35 miles, at the skirt of a small forest, and provided fuel, with a temporary defence, as before. Our provision being nearly exhausted, we were obliged to eat sparingly, although most of us were ravenously hungry. Before we went to sleep, I was alarmed to find that many of the party complained most violently of sore feet. This misfortune, I was afraid, would occasion our separation, and of course the death of several.

About seven in the morning, we again set out; but many of my people dropt astern in the course of the day, being

almost worn out with fatigue. In this situation I thought it incumbent on such of the party as could travel to get forward, and provide a place where wood and water could be had. I was of this company; and that all those who remained behind might find their way, I ordered the Caffree guides to set fire to the long grass, which served, during the night, as a point of direction. I was in expectation of their coming up with us before the morning; but we were sadly disappointed. We remained stationary until the sun appeared, and then went on.

Not one of the people we had left behind appeared this morning; but the guides gave us to understand we would reach a Christian settlement in the course of the day, where assistance would certainly be had. This intelligence gave us new spirits; and we travelled with an unusual alertness, until we came to a farm-house. Here we expected relief; but none, alas! was to be found: the whole place had been deserted for some time; we were obliged, therefore to sleep again in the air, and leave our

absent and miserable companions to all the horrors of the desert.

This was not a night of sleep, but lamentation. We sat round our fire, and spoke of nothing but our absent messmates and their unfortunate situation. They were left defenceless, without food, hardly able to stand erect, and in a country where the ferocious animals were most numerous. They were likewise every hour in danger of an attack from the Boshismen, who swarm in these parts, and destroy the unhappy objects of their vengeance by arrows that are poisoned. The sensibility of my people on this melancholy occasion displayed the genuine character of a sailor. Men who could brave all the dangers of the tempest, and face death, without a trembling nerve, even in the cannon's mouth, could not, however, speak of their distressed and absent brethren without a tear. Their own misfortunes were forgotten; and their only consideration, during the night, was their unhappy messmates, whom they never expected to behold again.

We remained here for more than an hour after the rising of the sun. It was possible we might see a few of our people, straggling towards the spot where we then were, and this chance detained us; but not an individual was to be observed. Out of sixty, that composed the party, when we left our savage friends on the beach, thirty-six were so maimed and worn down by fatigue as to be unable to travel: these remained in the deserts, if not already destroyed, and had no hope of preservation but from our exertions.

The guides informed us we were certainly near a christian settlement that was inhabited: the last we saw had been destroyed by the Caffrees during the war with the colonists; I therefore determined to proceed where relief could be obtained, with every possible despatch. My people followed me with redoubled energy; the salvation of their companions was the incentive, and that consideration banished every idea of danger or fatigue.

We travelled without a single halt for about three hours, when one of the guides,

who was advanced, roared out, in a transport of joy, "I see a Hottentot, attending a "flock of sheep." It was the voice of a seraph proceeding from a Caffree. We all ran to the place where he stood, and, at a considerable distance, observed a man attending a flock of at least four thousand. We moved in a body towards the shepherd, who seemed at first to be alarmed; but, perceiving we were mostly whites, and unarmed, he stopt until we came up. I requested of him to direct us the nearest way to the first settlement, which he did, and at the same time informed us the proprietor was a good man: the distance, he said, was about three hours. The pleasure diffused throughout the party, on receiving this information, it is impossible to describe. I embraced this opportunity, and went on; a general joy succeeded, and who should be foremost, the principal consideration.

At length—ecstatic reflection!—we came within sight of a Christian farm. "Come "on, my lads," said I, "we are safely "moored at last; and our people, in the "deserts will be soon relieved." Some

tottered as they stood, overcome by joy, and could not move; others appeared as in a trance, until at length about ten followed me, and we entered the house of Jan Du Pliesies.

Fortunately, this was a settler of the best order, about sixty years old, born in Holland, but had resided in Africa for many years; humane, generous, and possessing a heart that appeared to be the constant mansion of a virtuous sympathy. His cottage was formed of clay, thatched with a kind of reed, and furnished with a few stools, a table, and some kitchen utensils. His family consisted of five or six sons, their wives and children, together with a daughter, making together about twenty people. His stock, however, was considerable, not less than twelve thousand sheep, and one thousand oxen.

After the alarm into which we threw this good man on our first appearance had subsided, I told the story of our melancholy disaster, and implored his assistance for the relief of my unhappy people who were left behind. He could not listen to the relation

without discovering by his countenance the tenderness of his nature. His face, which was naturally pallid, became, at certain intervals, of a crimson hue: these emotions appeared to me as the effervescence of sensibility, and to exhibit, in glowing colours, the complexion of virtue.

As no time, he said, should be lost in preparing for the relief of my unfortunate people, he immediately directed two of his sons to harness eight oxen to a waggon. His orders were obeyed with a cheerfulness that evinced an hereditary goodness, and that it had descended, unimpaired, from the sire to his children. They were directed to travel all night; and our guides described the spot where we left them so minutely as to avoid all possibility of a mistake. The waggon was soon out of sight, and we all sat down to partake of a sheep, which our liberal host had ordered to be killed for our entertainment.

CHAPTER VII.

Remarkable story of a rhinoceros, related by the colonist. — The farmers generally discontented with the Dutch government at the Cape.—Neighbouring colonists arrive at Du Pliesies. — Their conduct described. — Waggon returns with twenty-three of the crew.—Thirteen strayed.—Reward and dismiss the Caffree guides.—Recommendatory letter given by the farmer to the captain in the Dutch language. —Their departure from Du Pliesies.—Arrive at another Christian settlement.—Their reception and departure. — Proceed on the journey.—Boshismen described.—The party travelling through a valley, in great danger from the Boshismen.—They get through without injury, and enter a champaign country.

When our meal was over, the worthy colonist began to interrogate us respecting our journey through Caffraria. He could not possibly conceive, he said, how the Tambochis could be induced to suffer our departure. They were such a horrid race, that nothing was so gratifying to their nature as the shedding of human blood. The Boshismen, he also observed, were so numerous, and so perpetually on the look

out, that he was amazed at our travelling with any degree of security; but when he considered that we came through a part of Caffraria so infested with carnivorous animals that people could never travel safely but in parties, and well armed, he declared our being then in his house appeared to him a kind of miracle.

I took this opportunity of giving our worthy host a proper idea of the Tambochis. His mind had been poisoned by some of his depredating neighbours, and never going on such parties himself, had entertained these prejudices without having any opportunity of knowing the contrary. He appeared much pleased at the conduct of the Tambochis during our abode in their country, and declared this circumstance alone would relieve him from many hours of uneasiness.

His sequestered mansion was nearly surrounded by trees, on which were hung to dry the skins of lions, tigers, panthers, and other destructive animals, killed in the vicinity of his own habitation. I observed also the carcases of two enormous creatures, lying near the door, which had the appear-

ance of being recently destroyed. He told me they were two rhinoceroses that his sons had killed, but the day before, on their own land. This gave rise to a narrative respecting these animals, which the good man related with great circumspection, and which appeared to me so very extraordinary, that I determined to record it, for the satisfaction of the curious.

"These creatures," said the farmer, "are more savage, and infinitely more to be dreaded, than any other animal of the deserts. Even the lion, when he perceives a rhinoceros, will fly from him on the instant. I had a proof of this," said he, "about two years ago. As I was traversing my lands in the morning, I perceived a lion enter a thicket, about the distance of half a mile from the place where I stood. In a few minutes after I observed a second, then a third and a fourth came; they seemed to follow one another at their leisure, and, in less than an hour, I counted nine that entered the same wood. Never having seen so many of the same species together, I was

desirous to know the event of their meeting, and I concealed myself for the purpose. After waiting for rather more than an hour in my lurking-place, without either seeing any of them or hearing any noise from the quarter where they lay, I began to despair of having my curiosity in the least gratified. At length I perceived a rhinoceros of uncommon magnitude approach the wood. He stood motionless for about five minutes, when he arrived at a small distance from the thicket, then tossed up his nose, and at last scented the animals that lay concealed. In an instant I saw him dart into the wood, and in the space of about five minutes afterwards I observed all the lions scamper away in different directions, and apparently in the greatest consternation. The rhinoceros beat about the wood in pursuit of his enemies for a considerable time; but not finding any, he broke cover at last, and appeared on the plain. He then looked around him, and, enraged at his disappointment, began tearing up the earth, and discovered every sign of madness and desperation. I re-

mained quietly in my retreat until the animal disappeared, and then returned to my house."

This anecdote I thought worthy of being published; but I now return to my narrative.

We slept this night on sacks, which our host had arranged for our accommodation. During the time we were at breakfast, on the succeeding morning, our benefactor entertained us with some very interesting observations respecting the country where he resided. He particularly stated the hardships which the colonists endured from the restrictive orders and persecuting conduct of the government at the Cape. "I have lead ore," said he, "on my own farm, so near the surface that we can scrape it up with our hands, and yet we dare not touch it: if we were known to melt and use a single pound of it, we should be all transported, for life, to Batavia." It was from this honest man I obtained the above information, and which I have before mentioned, in my introduction to this Narrative.

He made no scruple in declaring that if any liberal and trading nation would form a settlement on the eastern or western coast, he would, in conjunction with his neighbours, supply them with provisions to the extent of his ability, and trade with them, regardless of any order to the contrary he might receive from the Cape. Indeed such are the sentiments of all the central and advanced colonists throughout the southern parts of Africa.

Before we disposed of the sheep we had for breakfast, our benefactor had despatched messengers to his neighbouring friends, desiring their assistance to get us on towards the Cape. Several of them came, and behaved with the greatest tenderness and liberality. They went so far as to say, that such of the crew as were desirous of remaining in the country until they had perfectly recovered should be accommodated at their houses; and as they travelled once in every year to the Cape, they would take the first opportunity of conveying them thither. I thanked them for their

kindness, but declined accepting their proposal, as our intention was to make the Cape with every possible expedition.

This conversation was interrupted by a Hottentot servant, who ran into the house and declared the "waggon was in sight." All flew to meet it, and I had the heartfelt consolation of perceiving twenty-three of my unfortunate people, chiefly Lascars, lying down in the machine. On their arrival at our habitation, the two sons of Du Pliesies informed us they found them near a wood, perfectly resigned to their fate, having given up all hopes of relief. The preceding day, thirteen of their companions had separated from them; but where they had strayed to not one of them could even guess at. These poor fellows I never saw again; but I had the pleasure to hear, since my return to Europe, that after enduring for a long time the most unexampled miseries, they all arrived in safety at the Cape.

We were now forty-seven in number, and as we were to proceed in waggons, I had the satisfaction to know that such as were afflicted with sore feet, or weak

through hunger and fatigue, would not again be separated from their companions.

My next consideration was to reward our faithful guides. How to do this made me for some time extremely uneasy. At length, a very unexpected information relieved me from this embarrassment. One of my people gave me to understand that a sailor, who was of the party, had possessed himself of a dozen of my table-spoons, and likewise several tea-spoons, before he quitted the wreck, all of which he had then about him. I immediately went up to the man, and demanded my property; he returned them without a moment's hesitation, giving me to understand, at the same time, that he intended restoring them to me when we arrived at the Cape. Four or five of the largest spoons I gave the farmer, who in return delivered to me two oxen of an extraordinary size, and a like number of sheep. These I requested our two guides to accept of, as a reward for their labour and fidelity. They thanked me heartily, and set out on their return to the fertile and delightful plains of Caffraria.

Our benevolent host now provided us with a waggon and two sets of oxen, each set containing eight. They were occasionally to relieve each other on the way, and two or three Hottentot servants were appointed as drivers, and to take charge of the relaying cattle. One of the farmer's sons, completely armed, was likewise directed to attend us, and the waggon was stored with provision and water sufficient to supply us until we arrived at the next settlement.

Before we took leave of this excellent man, I begged of him to give me a recommendatory letter which I might show to the farmers as we proceeded, and which, I entertained no doubt, would secure to us a favourable reception. He immediately acquiesced, and gave me the following epistle in his own language.

" Goode Driende—*Weest soo goet helpt Dese*
" *Alenschen Doont Coapwaanst het sijnn Amerecan-*
" *ders Sijlúij heest haar schep Derlooren An de oven*
" *seijvan De Rivier genoempt De Biga De Caffers*
" *heest De mense bij meijn Ge braegl,*
" *Ue vnient,*
" Jan Dus. Pliesies,
" *Doude.*"

TRANSLATION.

" Good Friends,

" Be so good as to help these people forward towards " the Cape. They are Americans, who have lost their " ship beyond the river Biga: the Caffrees have brought " these people to me,

" Your friend,

" JOHN DU PLIESIES,

" *the elder.*"

We took our departure from the hospitable mansion of the benevolent Du Pliesies on the morning of the second of July. We travelled through a country possessing many of those variegated beauties I have before attempted to delineate. Our guard was perpetually on the watch, lest the Boshismen or the wild animals might dart upon us unperceived. About eight in the evening, however, we reached the second farm in perfect security. Our journey was about thirty-five miles this day, and all my people in good spirits.

The owner, whose name was Cornelius Englebrocks, we found also a beneficent character. His cottage was poor indeed; but all that he could afford he gave us with cheerfulness. I produced his neighbour's letter, which he read with great attention,

and then said, " My friend is a good man, " and I always valued him ; but you wanted " no other recommendation to my poor " services than your misfortunes."

We remained here during the night, after partaking of a frugal repast which our host had provided, and which was given with many innocent apologies for its scantiness.

Before our departure on the ensuing morning, the farmer generously presented me with nine sheep. I begged of him not to insist on my taking so many, as we could be supplied occasionally on our journey. " You cannot be sure of that," replied our worthy host. " Drive these sheep before " you, and if you are not well treated as " you proceed, this little stock will be " your support."

The poor man lamented he could not let us have a morsel of bread. " We live," said he, " the year round chiefly on mutton " and game ; but seldom enjoy the luxury " of a loaf." He insisted, however, on my taking the sheep, which I accepted with many thanks, and we then departed on our journey.

During the four or five succeeding days, we travelled on from house to house, generally at fifteen or sixteen hours' distance from each other, and were received at all of them with a disinterested hospitality. I relate these occurrences with a scrupulous attention to fidelity, because the colonists, without distinction, have been frequently represented as a ferocious banditti, scarcely to be kept within the pale of authority. I believe most of these people, at certain times, commit those depredations I have already described, and therefore deserve exemplary punishment; but it was my good fortune to meet with a deserving class, and I consider it as an indispensable duty to preserve their characters from the general opprobium.

During several days' travel we could get but little bread, and not much water. The countries through which we passed were alternately hill and dale, and often afforded the most romantic prospects. We frequently perceived vast quantities of wolves, and often such droves of that species of deer which the farmers call spring buck, that we supposed one flock alone could not

contain less than from twelve to fourteen thousand. Indeed many of the settlers informed me they have seen double that number at one time, and have frequently skilled three at a single shot. We likewise saw vast quantities of guinea fowl, which, after a shower of rain, are easily caught by the farmers' dogs.

The zebra or wild ass is common in these advanced colonies, and we saw many of them. Ostriches were likewise numerous. I have seen four of them together, and without being much alarmed at the appearance of our caravan. We had such plenty of venison at the houses where we stopt, that our stock of nine sheep, furnished by honest Englebrocks, was diminished but three in the course of six days.

The farmers were accustomed to the depredations of wild animals, and were therefore acquainted with their haunts. They frequently pointed to certain spots where the buffaloes frequented, and other places where the lions, tigers, &c. were known to reside. But these creatures, however tremendous to an European, are not so

alarming to a Hottentot as the Boshismen. I heard so much of these savage people, that I particularly wished to see a man of the same tribe. A lucky circumstance occurred that gratified my curiosity. A colonist, at whose house we sojourned for the night, had, many years before, engaged a party of Boshismen, and killed several; but was so fortunate as to preserve an infant, whose mother it was supposed had been slain during the hunt. He was taken home to the farmer's, and reared as one of the family. When I saw him, he was about twenty-five years old, but not more than four feet two inches in stature. His nose was not a prominent feature, but merely a piece of skin that lay flat over the nasal aperture; and although his make was athletic, yet no gazelle could be more alert or agile in its motions. When I inquired respecting the supposed origin of these people, I was universally answered, "they are a distinct race;" and indeed their look and figure, when taken together, are sufficient demonstrations of the fact.

The Boshismen, when they are sufficiently strong in number, attack and kill the Hottentots and Caffrees wherever they find them; and the colonists hunt the Boshismen as they do the lion and the tiger. A farmer never thinks of giving quarter to these people, but slays them the very instant they are in his power.

The bow of the Boshismen is about two feet and a half in length, and their arrows, of which they generally carry a competent stock, about two feet two inches from one extremity to the other. They are made of a certain reed, pointed with a bone which is poisoned, and constructed so artfully as to remain in the wound after it penetrates. If it draws blood, the opinion is that no cataplasm, however skilfully compounded, nor medicine yet discovered, can save the wounded object from destruction.

As we proceeded on our journey to a farm-house, we passed one day through a dismal valley of about three miles in length. Our conductors informed us this place was called Boshisman's path; and they held their muskets presented the whole

of the way, as if they were going to fire at some particular object. The road was narrow, and the hills on each side of considerable elevation. A thick brushwood covered the sides of the hills, except where the rocks appeared; and in the secluded cavities, formed by these masses, lay concealed whole hordes of these extraordinary people. Our guides were constantly desiring us, as we proceeded through this valley, to be upon our guard, as they knew the Boshismen were there, and looking at us, although we could not perceive them. "They will fill you full of arrows in a moment," said the guides, "if you do not take "especial care of yourselves." This caution, I soon found, was essentially necessary, as we observed their tracks so fresh upon the ground, that a whole swarm of them must have passed but a few minutes before our arrival.

The formidable appearance we made, I believe, prevented them from attacking us. We got through this valley, however, in safety, and then entered upon a champaign country. The farmers told us they fre-

quently assemble to the number of forty or fifty, and go in quest of the Boshismen, whom they destroy without mercy if they come up with them ; but they often escape, as they run with unparalleled swiftness, and climb the rocks with the most astonishing agility. These people rear nothing for their subsistence, but live by plundering the country, and on the fruit of a small tree which is called Boshisman's bread. The body and branches of this tree, when roasted, eat something like a plantain.

CHAPTER VIII.

Pass in safety through the Boshisman's Path.—Beautiful vale of Long Cluff described.—Humorous conversation of the crew.—Reach the settlement of a blind colonist: their reception and entertainment described.—The crew separate.—One of them marries in the country.—Perceive vast forests of the aloe-tree.—Captain reaches Zwellingdam, and proceeds to the Landorse-house.—His reception.—Arrives at the beautiful settlement of Stallenbush.—The place described.—Arrives at the Cape.

The colonists, I found, as we proceeded, raised some tobacco; but it was of a bad quality, owing, perhaps, to their not being sufficiently acquainted with the manner of rearing it. They all expressed a wish to have seed from America, and to have people from that continent established in their neighbourhood. An American well acquainted with the growth and manufacture of this plant must, in a few years, if settled in these parts, become not only independent, but opulent.

Having passed, on the seventh, the Boshisman's path in perfect security, we began to consider ourselves released from their attacks, and therefore went on with unusual cheerfulness. We proceeded through a delightful country, abounding in gazelles, and plentifully stocked with porcupines. We found their quills in vast quantities on the ground, and a great number of their holes. I had the curiosity to examine several of them, and, judging from the quantity of earth that lay at the entrance of their habitations, I conceived they must have penetrated to a considerable depth. We stopt this day at a farmer's, and exchanged our remaining sheep for an equal number of fresh ones. Those we possessed were drove so far, that most of them became feeble and emaciated; but the colonist was a liberal man, and parted freely with his property, though he lost by the exchange.

From the 8th to the 16th of June, our journey was not interrupted by any disagreeable occurrence. The countries through which we passed displayed every mile we

travelled a change of new beauties. The mountains were in many places of stupendous height, and the valleys, decorated with wood, were astonishingly fertile in vegetable productions. One of the most extensive of these valleys took us no less than three days and a half in passing. It is called by the settlers Long Cluff, and affords, perhaps, as many romantic scenes as can be found in any spot of the same extent on the face of the earth.

The hills for seventy or eighty miles run parallel to each other. The lands between are wonderfully rich, and produce vast quantities of a plant similar in its smell and taste to our thyme. On this fragrant herb are fed immense quantities of sheep and cattle: they devour it with great eagerness, and it gives the mutton a flavour so like our venison, that an epicure might be deceived in the taste. The valleys are generally level from eight to four miles in breadth, and in several places intersected with rivulets, on the borders of which we frequently perceived whole groves of the aloe-tree.

As we travelled through this vale, I was occasionally diverted by the observations and good-natured contentions of my people. One said he would build a house on such a spot, when he had made a fortune and gave up the sea. Another would point to a different situation as the place of his residence, and that he would keep ten wives. A third, perceiving what he thought a more delightful place, would have that in preference to the others, and be content with less than ten wives: he would have only eight; four of these should be black, and four white. A fourth declared he would have his mansion near a particular stream which he then had in view, and would not visit his old messmates, because they had often refused him a chew of tobacco. The others denied this he asserted; but after wrangling for some time, the man observed that if they behaved like good fellows, he would lend them a hand to raise a stock of children, provided they would do the same by him. The proposal was immediately acceded to, and they all shook hands in perfect good humour. Thus were these poor fellows amusing

themselves as they went on, regardless of the past, and but little attentive to the future.

On or about the fourteenth, we reached the settlement of an old and blind man. He had a large family, and appeared to possess a comfortable independence. When he heard our story, the good farmer burst into tears, and ordered a glass of brandy to be given to each of the crew. After this unusual and cheering repast, he directed some mutton to be delivered to my people, and gave them a pot to dress it in. He then requested I would mess with the family, which I did; and when supper was ended, this worthy creature informed me he was so pleased with our escaping the dangers of the sea and the Caffrees, that he would celebrate our meeting with a song. He immediately began, and sung with the voice of a Stentor. A general plaudit succeeded; and then our honest benefactor, addressing himself to me, said, "Now, captain, I have a favour to ask of "you. Pray desire all your people to sing." It was impossible to avoid laughing at this

whimsical request; but I thought good humour at such a moment should not be interrupted. I therefore desired an American sailor who sat near me to sing one of his best songs. He no sooner began than all the Lascars tuned their pipes: this set a going the Swedes, Portuguese, Dutchmen, and all the crew; each party sung in their several languages, and at the same time. Such a concert, I believe, was never heard before; but the liberal and merry old colonist was so entertained with their music, that he had nearly dropt from his chair in a fit of laughter. I mention these little anecdotes to show the disposition of some of the people who are settled in these parts; and that notwithstanding there are many who are perhaps dead to the feelings of humanity, still there are others of a very different description, and highly merit our protection and esteem.

I was provided this night with a sheep's-skin, on which I rested under the roof of the farmer's cottage; but there was not room for all, and therefore most of my poor fellows were obliged to sleep in the

air. A similar inconvenience had happened so frequently since we reached the colonies, that we determined to separate. We were now out of the reach of the Boshismen, and therefore we might travel in less numbers, and with security. At some of the farms we had passed, the proprietors could not furnish us with a waggon, and therefore, although I was generally accommodated with a horse, my people were obliged to walk: from this untoward circumstance, several who were unable to travel had remained with the settlers. They received every encouragement to stop, especially such as were in the least acquainted with the cultivation of land, or bred to any particular trade. One of my crew, who was a cooper, having stopt at a farmhouse, was immediately employed; and having mended all the tubs with an expedition that astonished the proprietor, he gave him a pressing invitation to remain. The farmer was an honest, worthy man, and the stranger acceded to the proposal. This accident, I have been informed since, has been attended with no less consequences

to the cooper than his marrying the farmer's daughter, and being settled on the spot as an independent colonist.

On the morning of the seventeenth we separated, and I took with me my chief and third mates, together with one or two more who were solicitous to accompany me. The country, as we advanced, increased in population; and the farm-houses were, in several places, not more than two hours' distance from each other. Many of them were beautifully situated, and their lands produced grain, oranges, figs, and lemons in abundance. Their grapes likewise appeared to flourish, and supplied them with wine and brandies, which they vended chiefly at the Cape. We saw vast herds of deer, partridges out of all number, and immense tracts of land covered entirely with aloe-trees.

The colonists are not sufficiently acquainted with the means generally used in preparing and analyzing this valuable drug. The lamentable consequence is, that whole forests of the aloe-tree, which the hand of nature so bountifully presents, are suffered

to decay; but which, if skilfully managed, would produce an inexhaustible and immense revenue to the settlers..

From the seventeenth to the twenty-first we travelled a mountainous country; but the valleys constantly presented farms and habitations where the industry of the husbandman was amply rewarded. Their flocks of sheep were prodigious; but their cattle were not so numerous, nor in such good condition as those we had seen in the more advanced colonies.

On the twenty-second we arrived at Zwellingdam, and proceeded to the Landorse-house. The Landorse is the chief man of the place, and his settlement consists of about sixteen or eighteen houses, surrounded by a delightful country, and producing grain, vegetables for culinary purposes, grapes, and fruits of almost every description.

This gentleman gave me a very hospitable reception, took me into his stables, where he showed me two fine zebras which he was endeavouring to reconcile to the harness. The next morning he furnished

me with a horse and guide to conduct me to his brother-in law's; and that nothing might be omitted on his part to secure me a favourable reception at the Cape, my worthy host gave me a very kind letter to his friend, General Craig, commander in chief, acquainting him with the loss of my ship, and the miseries we had endured in our travels through the deserts. He also requested the general would do me every service in his power, which he would acknowledge as an obligation conferred upon himself.

We arrived at the settlement of Johannas Brinch, at Stallen Bush, on the third or fourth day, after travelling a country highly cultivated, and producing immense forests of the aloe-tree. The farmers live here in affluence, and I continued to experience the most liberal and kind attention during the remainder of my journey.

On my arrival at Stallen Bush, I waited on Mr. Brinch, whose reception I can never mention but in terms of the most fervent gratitude and esteem. His residence is one of those delightful places which, from its natural situation and fer-

tility, wraps the beholder, the moment he perceives it, in a kind of ecstasy. The vines here are reared with great attention, and are highly productive. Grain, vegetation, and fruits, yield abundant crops; and camphire-trees of very large dimensions thrive also on this settlement. Indeed the whole seemed to be so precisely what it should be, that any alteration must be a deformity. The people here dress well, but nearer the English than the Dutch style. They have nothing of that sullen taciturnity belonging to the character of the Hollander, but are sprightly and good humoured.

My habiliments, when I reached this happy spot, were in a deplorable condition; and this being soon perceived by the excellent lady of the mansion, she ordered my stock of linen to be washed, and provided me with such necessaries as I wanted for the present.

I remained two days under the roof of this liberal and benevolent gentleman. He pressed me to stay longer; but I was desirous of reaching the Cape, and therefore declined his hospitable invitation. In

the morning, therefore, he provided me with a horse and guide, and I took my departure from Stallen Bush on the 30th in the morning. Our journey was but short, as we arrived the same evening at the Cape of Good Hope; and although emaciated in my frame, yet in tolerable health.

CHAPTER IX.

General Craig's reception of the captain stated.—Admiral Elphinstone's liberal and noble conduct described.—List of the settlers who behaved kindly to the captain and his crew delivered to Admiral Elphinstone by his own directions.—General observations.—The captain arrives in England.

The only thing now wanting to complete my happiness was the arrival of my poor people. The major part of them were creeping after me to implore relief, and they looked to my exertions as the medium through which their miseries would be alleviated.

Every painful reflection on this occasion at once subsided when I considered that a British officer had the command at the Cape. I had a letter to General Craig from his worthy and respectable friend, the Landorse of Zwellingdam; but the situation of my people, who had survived such a series of calamities, could not fail, as I conceived, to awaken the feelings of humanity; and I knew this virtue to be the predominant characteristic of a British sol-

dier. I therefore entertained no doubt but the commander in chief would give me every assistance in his power, especially when I recollected that we were the last people who had travelled through the colonies since the conquest by the English, and that I could speak more directly, perhaps, than any other person respecting the attachment or hostility of the settlers to the British government. In this point of view, I became an object of great political importance to the commander in chief; and fully impressed with these reflections, I waited on General Craig: but, alas! friendship, humanity, policy, and even politeness, were not then at head-quarters. His answer was—"I have nothing to do with "the business; you must go to the ad- "miral."—I shall here throw a charitable veil over the conduct of this general, and only observe, that when I had recovered from this sudden stroke of inhumanity, I departed without ceremony, and instantly flew to Admiral Elphinstone.

Here the contrast was indeed complete. The admiral received me with every mark of tenderness and commiseration. He as-

sured me, that as my people arrived at the Cape, they should be accommodated until they could find means to ship themselves for their respective destinations. His promises are not made and forgotten. During the six weeks I remained at the Cape, about thirty of my people, chiefly Lascars, arrived, and in a state of absolute nakedness. The admiral immediately gave directions for their relief, and when recovered, sent them to Cape-town to join one of the Company's extra ships bound to Bengal. Such was the conduct of the brave, humane, and generous Elphinstone. He participated in the miseries of my people, and frequently lamented their misfortunes in terms that did honour to the sailor and the man.

I offer this public testimony of my veneration and respect for an officer whose professional character will fill a bright page in the annals of his country, and whose generous nature entitles him to a distinguished place in the temple of worthies.

On my second visit to the admiral, he interrogated me respecting the colonists. I rejoiced at the opportunity of repaying

him, in a certain degree, for his liberality, and I gave him a faithful and long detail of what I had observed of these people during my travels through their country. Of this I shall speak more at length in the concluding part of this work. His observations discovered a comprehensive and penetrating mind. He left nothing untouched that he thought necessary for his information. After I had described the general conduct of the settlers throughout the whole of my journey, he desired to know if I could recollect the names of those farmers who had treated me and my people with so much kindness. I told him I believed I could recollect the most of them, and in a short time afterwards delivered into his hand the following list.

John Du Pliesies.
Cornelius Englebrach.
Philip Cone.
Johannas Slaywers.
Peter Fanforus.
Peter Gorse.
Theodores Mullar.
——— Millar, Captain of Militia.
Peter De Praise.

Baron De Long.
Jacobus Stane.
The Landorse of Swellingdam.
Peter Kemp.
Johannas Brinch.
Hendrich Hopper.*

When the admiral had perused the foregoing list, he emphatically said, "I will order presents to the amount of one hundred pounds to be sent to these honest people, as a reward for their humanity." This measure evidently united a sound policy with an endearing liberality, and I am perfectly convinced has had every effect the worthy admiral expected. Indeed I became so well acquainted with Admiral Elphinstone's conduct at the Cape, and the general character he bore there, that I believe nothing could more effectually secure the attachment of the people to the British government than his remaining with them for some years after the conclusion of a peace.

* I publish these names, not only in justice to the people themselves who should be distinguished as honest settlers, but for the information of those who may hereafter visit the countries where they reside.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

It was about the third or fourth day after we entered the colonies that I heard of the Cape being in possession of the British. This information determined me to observe what effect the conquest of that settlement by the English had upon the colonists. I constantly introduced the subject wherever I came, and I found that notwithstanding they all execrated the Dutch government for their oppressive conduct towards them, and wished for new settlers on the oriental and western coasts, still they were not unanimous in their opinions respecting the English. Some were violent in their observations on this subject, and declared, that if the governor had sent them word of an enemy being on the coast, they would have mustered eight thousand strong, and marched directly to the Cape. Others seemed perfectly satisfied with the change, and hoped the British nation would not conclude a peace without having these countries ceded to the crown of England. Upon the whole, I conceived that a majority of the colonists were still in favour

of their old masters; but that a wise and liberal government at the Cape would soon dissolve all their ancient prejudices, and attach the settlers in general to the British nation.

As I have only touched, in my introduction to this Narrative, upon the necessary conduct which, in my opinion, should be observed towards these people, I shall be more explicit in my following observations.

I have before stated that many of the colonists live by murdering and plundering the unoffending inhabitants of the deserts. Those abominable transactions should certainly be prevented in future, and I have pointed out the most likely means to accomplish it, which is by forming settlements on the coasts of Caffraria and the western side of this extensive continent. But supposing this humane and political measure to be fully accomplished, still there remains a work to be performed of infinite importance to the prosperity of these countries, and the government of the whole.

What I particularly allude to on the present occasion is the mode to be adopted for civilizing the natives of those delightful

countries situated from three to five hundred miles northward of the Fish River.

On considering this subject with attention, I own some very potent objections have taken possession of my mind respecting the usual manner of colonising which, for centuries past, the enlightened nations have invariably pursued.

It cannot have escaped those people who are conversant in history, that since the establishment of christianity in Europe no savage country has been settled from that continent without having missionaries or clergy of some order to accompany the adventurers. The piety of the measure would at this day be applauded, if experience had not taught us the impolicy of it; for I believe it will be found that hitherto the adoption of this practice has been seldom attended with a single good consequence. But without recurring to the histories of Mexico, and the eastern world, to elucidate this opinion, I shall confine my observations to the savages in Africa, and what effect I can conceive would be produced by th eintroduction of any order of clergy amongst them.

The people inhabiting these regions are destitute of every intellectual acquirement: they have not the most distant conception of the existence of a Deity, nor of future rewards and punishments. Notwithstanding this, if humanity and benevolence constitute morality, they are a moral people. They likewise possess intelligence, but that teaches them to reject, as preposterous, every thing that appears inconsistent with their reason.

There would be little difficulty in convincing them of the existence of a God, because they perceive motion, order, and regularity, throughout space; nor would it require sacerdotal learning to establish on their minds a perfect conviction of a future life. Both these truths should be propagated, as their political and moral conduct would, in a great measure, be established by their belief of these doctrines; but here we should stop. The moment a divine began to preach the sublime mysteries of our faith, the savages would be confused; they could never imagine that any particular spot of this globe was so immediately the object of God's favour

as to be enlightened by his especial grace in preference to the rest of the world. They have sagacity sufficient to discover that men of every country, colour, and description, are his children, and, of course, must be alike objects of his care. To press, therefore, on their minds a doctrine which precludes reason and substitutes faith would not only be ineffectual but dangerous, as it might weaken their opinion as to our superior understanding, and of course lead them to despise what they should reverence.

But there is another reason that fully elucidates my opinion on this important subject. If the savage countries in Africa, which I have before described, be colonised from England, it is certain that people of different religious persuasions will visit and settle there. What then must be the evident consequence? plainly this, that what they hear on one day delivered as sacred truths they will find contradicted on the next. The poor savages, however ignorant, will soon perceive, that notwithstanding our boasted learning and information, we have not been able to agree

amongst ourselves on matters so essential to our temporal and spiritual happiness; and if they are not disgusted with these different sentiments, they will be divided into sectaries, and from thence must arise contentions and reciprocal animosities, which generally terminate in wars, persecutions, and bloodshed.

We have sufficiently experienced in Europe the mischiefs that have arisen from theological prejudices, and I hope they may be avoided in Africa, if the natives are to become objects of British civilization. The use of the plough, which in a great measure secures a local residence; the manner of rearing vegetation for all the purposes of civil life; erecting of comfortable habitations, and forming them into towns and villages, together with all the useful arts, may be taught them; and these necessary avocations will employ their time, secure their attachment, and eventually make them useful members of a regular community. These important ends may be fully accomplished without confusing them with mysterious doctrines, which they can never be sufficiently educated to em-

brace or understand. Indeed the attempt, I am convinced, would be ineffectual, if not dangerous, and therefore I object to the establishment or introduction of any theological system on the continent of Africa.

I do not address my sentiments on this occasion to any description of persons who, from early habits, have been taught to view the most important subjects through the dark mist of prejudice. Were I to act otherwise, I must commence an endless warfare with the passions, and my intentions, however good, be liable to misconception and reproach. No man, I believe, at this moment, entertains a more profound respect for those truths which are promulgated under the divine authority of the christian dispensation than myself; but as I earnestly wish the Cape of Good Hope may remain for ever an appendage to the crown of England, I have been induced to offer my objections to such measures as I thought would defeat so glorious a purpose, and, at the same time, to recommend others that had a tendency to secure it. On such an occasion the politician surely may be allowed to check the honest zeal of

the church-man, without being fairly subjected to the reproach of impiety. It is upon this plain and reasonable ground I have ventured my opinion respecting the introduction of theological doctrines into the wilds of Africa; and if these sentiments be found worthy of attention, or if in the present work I have furnished a single hint that eventually may be found useful to the British nation, I shall not hereafter repine at the calamities I have suffered, but humbly thank Providence for raising the storm that threw me on the desert shores of Caffraria.

As my return to Europe was not attended with any remarkable occurrence, I shall now only add, that I took my departure from the Cape in the Saint Cecilia, Captain Palmer, and arrived in Crookhaven (in Ireland) about the middle of November, 1796. In a few days afterwards we set sail for England, and as we made our passage in a short time, I soon found myself once more in London.

THE END.

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